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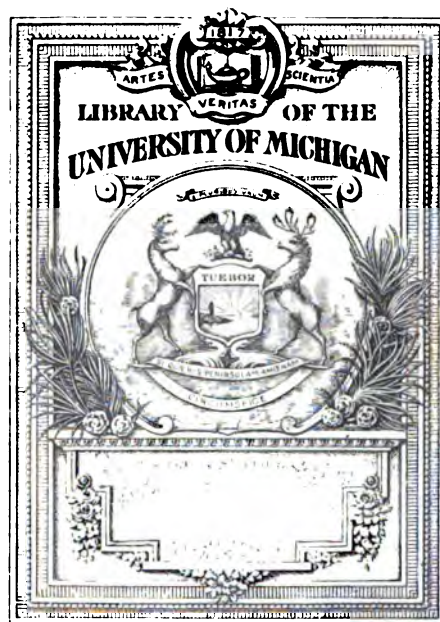
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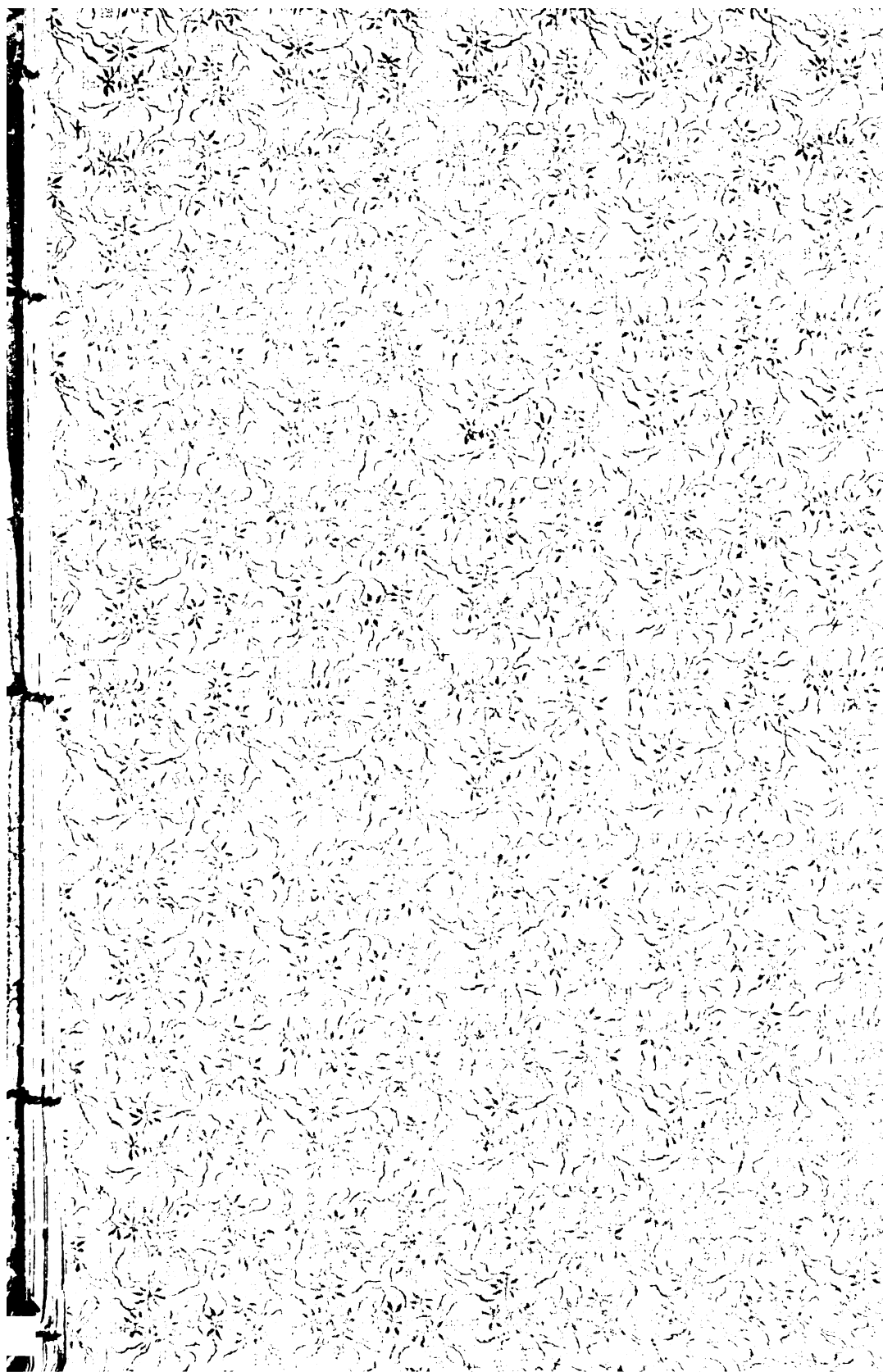
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HISTORY  
OF  
MECKLENBURG COUNTY  
AND THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE

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By D. A. TOMPKINS.



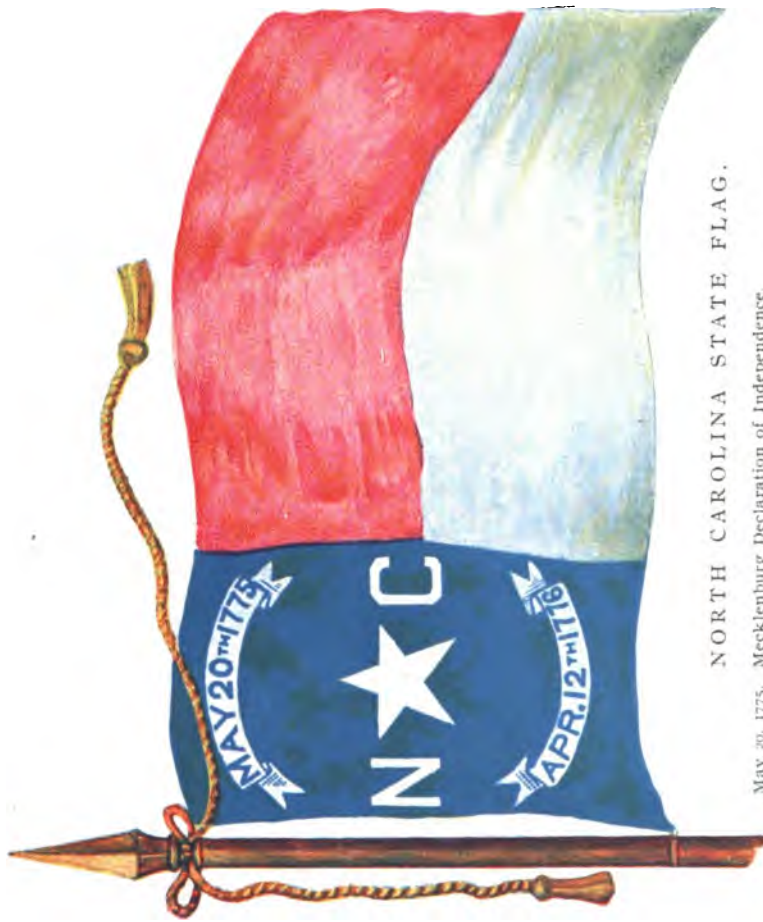




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NORTH CAROLINA STATE FLAG.

May 20, 1775. Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.  
April 12, 1776. Delegates to the Philadelphia Convention selected at Halifax, N. C.,  
and instructed to vote for American Independence.

# History of Mecklenburg County

AND

## The City of Charlotte

From 1740 to 1903.

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BY D. A. TOMPKINS,

*Author of* COTTON AND COTTON OIL; COTTON MILL,  
COMMERCIAL FEATURES; COTTON VALUES IN TEX-  
TILE FABRICS; COTTON MILL, PROCESSES  
AND CALCULATIONS; *and* AMERICAN  
COMMERCE, ITS EXPANSION.

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CHARLOTTE, N. C., 1903.

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VOLUME ONE—NARRATIVE.

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CHARLOTTE, N. C.:  
OBSERVER PRINTING HOUSE.  
1903.

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**D. A. TOMPKINS.**



W. S. Ames.  
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2 vol.

"All hail to thee, thou good old State,  
the noblest of the band!  
Who raised the flag of Liberty, in  
this our native land!  
All hail to thee, thy worthy sons were  
first to spurn the yoke,  
The tyrant's fetters from their hands,  
at Mecklenburg they broke."





## EXPLANATION.

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This history is published in two volumes. The first volume contains the simple narrative, and the second is in the nature of an appendix, containing ample discussions of important events, a collection of biographies and many official documents justifying and verifying the statements in this volume. At the end of each chapter is given the sources of the information therein contained, and at the end of each volume is an index.





## INTRODUCTION.

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History of a county is closely associated with history of the State, as the health of an arm is with the condition of the whole physical structure. An account of the life of a prominent man in a community is a history of that community in the same way that the history of a representative county is a history of the commonwealth. This book is written primarily to preserve Mecklenburg history for the inspiration of present and future generations of Mecklenburg people, but the aim extends further than this on the presumption that this is a typical southern county and hence, by deductive reasoning, its growth portrays the effects subsequent to certain industrial activities throughout the South.

Prominent among the author's incentives was the desire to investigate, from an industrial standpoint, regarding the lack of industries until within the last half century and the causes of business revival since. He had no personal opinions to illustrate, but investigated and brought forth this accumulation of facts so that he and others might be enabled to form opinions based on truth. The history preaches no doctrine and leans to no side. It is the result of five years of almost continuous work, of painstaking and laborious investigations, of considerable financial expenditure, and of a guiding desire to learn and to record the historical events of the county.

The author is not a native of Mecklenburg. He was raised on a farm in South Carolina, and was educated at the South Carolina College and at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, and though active participation in Charlotte life in recent years has made him a thorough citizen, he feels that he can view in an impartial manner the events herein discussed. The *data* was gathered from a library of North Carolina history and literature,

unpublished State and county records and manuscripts, the Colonial and State Records, private correspondence and diaries and business records, testimony of aged and reliable citizens, and files of Charlotte newspapers from 1824 to 1903.

D. A. TOMPKINS.

October 1, 1903.



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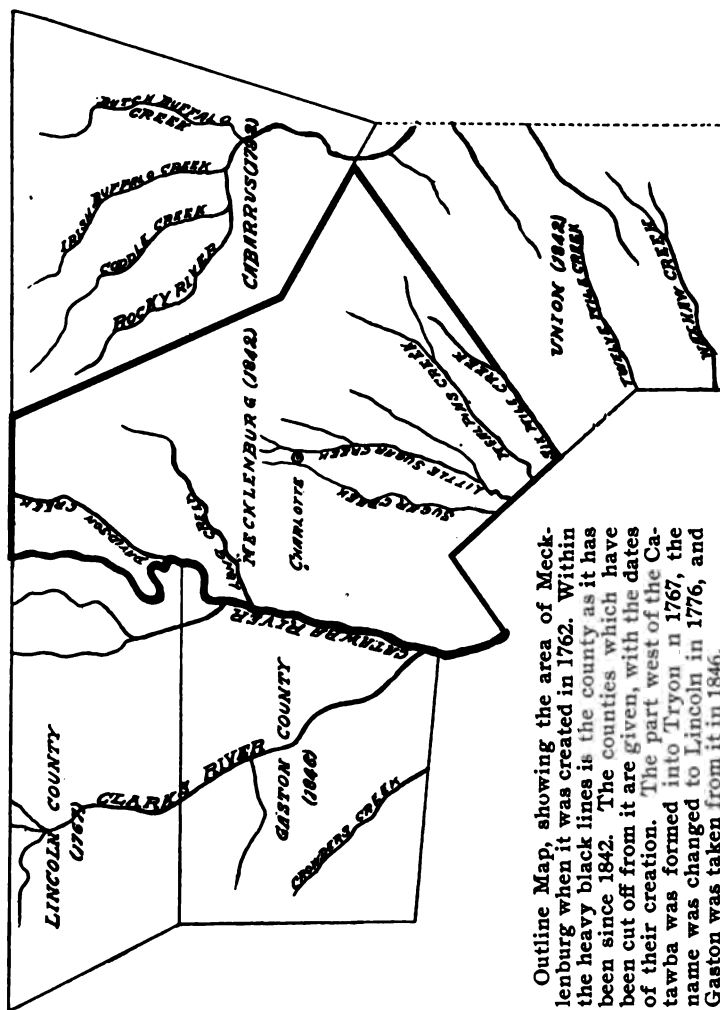
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Outline Map, showing the area of Mecklenburg when it was created in 1762. Within the heavy black lines is the county as it has been since 1842. The counties which have been cut off from it are given, with the dates of their creation. The part west of the Catawba was formed into Tryon in 1767, the name was changed to Lincoln in 1776, and Gaston was taken from it in 1846.

Scale: 14 miles to the inch.

## CHAPTER I.

### THE COLONISTS.

**An Account of the Settlement of the Original Colonies and of the Causes Which Prompted Emigration to North Carolina and to the Piedmont Section.**

October 12, 1492, Christopher Columbus landed on one of the Bahama Islands named by him San Salvador. He never touched the main land of North America, though on his third voyage he visited the coast of South America. In 1499, Americus Vesputius, a bold and intelligent navigator, published a map of the coast of North America, and wrote vivid descriptions of the lands he visited, so that his contemporaries named the continent America, in his honor. In 1497, an Englishman, John Cabot, discovered the continent of North America, and hence England assumed the right of exclusive possession on account of prior discovery. In 1498, John Cabot and his son, Sebastian, explored the whole coast line from Labrador to the mouth of Chesapeake Bay.

The Spaniards were the first settlers of the new land—along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, in what is now Mexico. In 1535, Jacques Cartier, a Frenchman, sailed up the St. Lawrence as far as Montreal, and planted a fort on the heights of Quebec in 1541. In 1562, and the years following, the French Huguenots made a settlement in Florida, but were destroyed by the Spaniards, who had established St. Augustine in 1565, from which the French were unable to drive them. The French planted more settlements in what is now Nova Scotia—then called Acadia, and all the way up the St. Lawrence, at the beginning of the Seventeenth century. From the year 1600, France and England were the only real rivals for the colonization of North America. The resistance of the Dutch in the Netherlands and the destruction of the Spanish Armada broke the power of Spain.

In 1578, the English fitted out an expedition to settle Labrador. But the hundred settlers were afraid to be left alone on that bleak coast, and the colony returned without accomplishing anything. In 1583, Sir Humphrey Gilbert and Sir Walter Raleigh, as representatives of England, went through the form of claiming New Foundland, whose valuable fisheries were already supplying Europe with fish, a hundred and fifty vessels from France and forty from England being engaged in that trade. In 1584, Raleigh sent out two ships to take a more southerly course from England, and they came to Roanoke Island, North Carolina. The whole country then between the parallels of 33 degrees and 45 degrees north latitude was named by Raleigh, Virginia, in honor of England's virgin queen, Elizabeth. The first colony on Roanoke Island was of men only, and it failed. The idea was exploration rather than colonization. The second colony, on the same island, contained women and men, and here, April 18, 1687, the first white child born in America, Virginia Dare, first saw the light. The colony was left in good condition with promises of succor from England. But when the ships came, the colonists had all disappeared. The Indians of Roanoke Island had been described by one of these colonists to be "most gentle, loving and faithful, and such as live after the manner of the golden age." The disappearance of the colony has remained a mystery, though it is claimed that the whites intermarried with the Indians, and that the Croatan Indians of Robeson county are the descendants of the mixed race. This is the only answer that has ever been given to the question, "What became of the lost colony?"

In April, 1607, the first permanent English settlement in what is now the United States, was made at Jamestown, in Virginia. The Spaniards had been upon the very spot eighty years before, but they had given up, and the English remained permanently. After Jamestown came Henrico, Hampton, New Bermuda, and other settlements in Virginia. In 1619, a Virginia Assembly met. In that year also a

Dutch vessel brought the first negro slaves, twenty of them, to America. The Puritans landed on Plymouth Rock the next year, in 1620, making a permanent colony there. Between them and the Virginia Colony the Dutch had established themselves in the New Netherlands. As early as 1610, they built a fort on the Hudson at Albany, and had put up a few log huts on Manhattan Island, which they called New Amsterdam. Captain Argall was sent from Virginia to subdue New Amsterdam and did so, but so soon as he went back the Dutch threw off the English yoke. In 1651 they conquered a Swedish colony and became the rivals of the Puritans in trade with the Indians. The Dutch extended their settlements from Connecticut to the Delaware. In 1664, they gave up their town, New Amsterdam, to Colonel Nicholas, acting for the Duke of York, and both New Netherlands and New Amsterdam changed their names to New York.

In 1633, the Colony of Maryland, with its liberal charter, was founded by Lord Baltimore, and it was settled from Virginia, from the New Netherlands and by the Catholic immigrants from England. Delaware had been first settled by the Swedes, who had acknowledged the authority of the Dutch. The Swedes had also been the first settlers of Pennsylvania. In 1681, Charles the Second granted a charter for the whole country to William Penn, the Quaker, and named it Pennsylvania. The same year a party from Germany settled in what is now known as Germantown. The Quakers, who were persecuted in England, came over in great numbers. Other Germans followed and colonized Western Pennsylvania. From about this time began the immigration of the Scotch-Irish, from Ulster county, Ireland, in scattering bands, into New England, in larger numbers into New York and New Jersey, and by the thousand into Pennsylvania, settling Philadelphia and then going beyond the German settlements still farther west.

In 1670, a few emigrants from England settled at Port

Royal, South Carolina, moving the next year to the western bank of the Ashley river and again to Oyster Point, at the junction of the Ashley and Cooper rivers where, in 1680, the foundations of Charleston were laid. They were reinforced in 1673 by an immigration of Dutch from New York, seeking new homes after the English conquest of the New Netherlands. In 1686 there was a large immigration of the Huguenots who fled from religious persecution in France. After long controversies between the English and these Dutch and French dissenters, the latter were admitted to all the rights and privileges of the former. The South Carolina Colony was constantly threatened by the Spaniards to the south of them. Later in history, Georgetown became an important point. The Scotch-Irish also made Charleston a port of entry. A large Swiss settlement was made near the coast, but was so much reduced by the too great change in climate from their native mountains that the survivors moved westward toward the up country.

"The Carolinas" is the name given by the French who explored them in 1563, in honor of Charles the Ninth. The first permanent settlements in North Carolina were made from Virginia and by English immigrants, along the Chowan river, adjacent to Virginia. Some of these lands, although lying in North Carolina, were deeded by Governor Berkeley, of Virginia, as the boundary line of 36 degrees and 30 minutes was not determined until 1728. The first settlements of importance were made in 1653. All along the border of eastern and middle North Carolina, the Virginia settlers poured over the line. The land grants in this colony were more desirable and the taxes and levies less than in Virginia. But for sixty years the population was mostly confined to the territory north of Albemarle Sound, which gave its name to Albemarle county, one of the two divisions of the colony. A colony from the Barbadoes settled at the mouth of the Cape Fear in 1665, but in 1690 the last of these settlers left and moved south to Charleston. This colony was called the county of Clarendon. In 1663 the counties

of Clarendon and Albemarle were united under the government of Lords Proprietors. There was an open revolt in Albemarle until the people were persuaded that their liberties would be preserved. This was in 1669, when there met an Assembly composed of the Governor and his Council and twelve delegates elected by the people. In 1709 and 1710, several thousand Swiss and German immigrants from the Palatinate settled at New Bern, which was named for the Swiss city. Baron De Graffenreid was their leader. There was a dreadful massacre by the Indians in 1712, in which many of these and other settlers lost their lives. So the progress of the colony was slow. In 1717, the taxable inhabitants numbered only 2,000, and in 1729 the number had grown to 13,000. Then the tide of immigration began to pour in all at once, and on account of late settlement, the foreign population was greater in North Carolina, and the immigration from the other colonies as compared with English immigration was also larger. The population of 20,000, including the negro slaves, in 1730, had grown to 393,000 by 1790. This growth was largely by immigration from the other colonies.

The first known land grant was made in 1633 to a Quaker named Durant, at the mouth of the Little and Perquimans rivers, which became the nucleus for a large Quaker settlement—a refuge for those who were persecuted in both Virginia and New England. Other dissenters, from Nansemond county, Virginia, one colony being composed of sixty-seven persons, settled in the territory just over the line.

After Bacon's Rebellion, especially, "fugitives from arbitrary tribunals, non-conformists, and friends of popular liberty, fled to Carolina as their common subterfuge and lurking place." In 1672, there was organized resistance against England for the oppressive laws, taxing tobacco a penny a pound and requiring its shipment to England for taxation before it could be sent elsewhere. The people arrested the Deputy Governor and Council and elected a Governor of their own, an Englishman named Culpepper. Says Ban-

croft of this incident: "Are there any who doubt man's capacity for self-government—let them study the history of North Carolina. Its inhabitants were restless and turbulent in their imperfect submission to a government imposed on them from abroad; the administration of the colony was firm, humane and tranquil when they were left to take care of themselves. The uneducated population of that day formed conclusions as just as those which a century later pervaded the country."

The main settlers in Eastern Carolina were English from Virginia, and as the country was settled along the coast they gradually moved westward. Henry McCulloh settled a colony of Scotch-Irish direct from Ireland in Duplin county in 1736. From the year 1740 a stream of Scotch-Irish and German immigrants from Pennsylvania and the Valley of Virginia poured southward along the whole of the Piedmont section. In 1746 occurred in Scotland the Battle of Culloden, in which the Scotch Highlanders, who were still loyal to the House of Stuart, were defeated. In the following year and for years afterward colonies of these Highlanders came to Wilmington and then up the Cape Fear, settling what are now Bladen, Sampson, Cumberland, Harnett, Moore, Robeson, Richmond and Scotland counties. In 1750, the Moravians purchased 100,000 acres of land from Lord Granville, in Surry County. In the meantime there began an immigration over the southern line of the colony from Charleston and Georgetown as ports of entry, and from the several nationalities that had already settled South Carolina. This northward movement from South Carolina and the migration westward from the settled portions of the eastern counties, and the movement southward from Pennsylvania and Virginia, met and mingled in the southern Piedmont region now occupied by Mecklenburg and adjacent counties.

## CHAPTER II.

### INDIANS OF THIS SECTION. (1753 to 1763.)

**Troubles Between White People and Indians—Full Report of a Peace Conference—Wars Among Different Indian Tribes—The Cherokees and the Catawbas.**

American Indians were much the same everywhere. In the days when the white people began to settle this section, they found the American Indian in possession of the land. It is not necessary to discuss Indian characteristics or to lament the exit of the Red Man from the field of action, or to accuse our ancestors of barbarity in their treatment of this race of people. The Indian was not capable of civilization, and he, for that reason more than all others, is not with us today. But the Indian character in its general features was the same everywhere, and needs no special discussion for the reason that the Indians originally living in this section displayed no marked differences from those found all over the country when the English began to found their colonies.

Originally, the Catawba Indian nation inhabited the valleys of the Catawba river and its tributaries, and claimed all the country adjacent thereto as far west as the Blue Ridge mountains. West of the Blue Ridge the Cherokees held sway. The Catawbas, like other Indians, delighted in pomp and show, painted their faces and wore feathers and showy trinkets. Their religion consisted largely in warding off evil spirits by charms, totems and incantations. They burned off their hair with live coals, wore furs, used the bow and arrow and the stone axe. The conjurer and the medicine man were little less than gods among these people. The dance and the masquerade were similar to those held everywhere by Indians. Their feasts and their methods of warfare were the same as among other tribes. Hence, it seems that these Catawbas were no better Indians than were to be

found elsewhere on the American continent. If they were sometimes well disposed towards the whites, it was for reasons other than those springing from innate goodness, as their history will show.

In order to get an idea of the Indian and his doings in this section, it will be necessary to note the Indian troubles which took place here from 1750 and up to and after the organization of this county. The first thing to be noted is that foreign Indians were always passing back and forth through this section, committing all kinds of lawlessness upon the English settlers at the instigation of the French. Generally, these roving bands were small in numbers. As early as June, 1753, three "French Indians" and five northern Indians met thirteen Catawbas about two miles from Salisbury and fought a small battle. The Catawbas killed five of their enemies, suffering no loss themselves. The white people who lived along the routes taken by these roving bands always suffered either personal violence or loss of property.

June 16, 1754, Colonel John Clark, of the Anson Militia Regiment, reported that the Indians had recently killed sixteen white persons on Broad river. This proceeding was the work of the Catawbas or the Cherokees, and was thought to be the beginning of an attempt to cut off the frontiers from the more thickly settled portions of the province. This event, as well as the threatening attitude of all the Indians in this section, led the whites to cultivate closer friendship with the Catawbas than ever before. The Governor of the province, at the solicitation of the whites of this section, appointed James Carter and Alexander Osborne, of Rowan, to treat with the Catawbas and settle the troubles then existing between the two races. Accordingly, on the 29th day of August, 1754, the commissioners met "King Hagler and sundry of his head men and warriors" at Matthew Toole's house, and proceeded to discuss affairs relating to the whites and the Catawbas, Toole acting as interpreter. At this meeting the whites presented their grievances against the

Indians and the Indians explained the cause of their own offenses, and in turn presented their grievances against the whites. The Indians were accused of going to the mill of one William Morrison and attempting to throw a pail of water in the meal trough, and, when Morrison tried to prevent them, of attempting to strike the miller over the head with their guns. The Indians replied to this charge, that they only intended to put a few handfuls of meal in the pail to make a drink, according to their custom.

The whites then brought up the murder of a little girl below the Waxhaw settlement by Indians. Hagler said that his warriors had killed the drunken Indian who had committed this crime, forcing the Indian's own cousin to kill the murderer in the presence of an assembled band of warriors and whites, thus demonstrating to the white people that the Indians were willing to punish such an offender. Other charges were then preferred by various persons, accusing the Indians of taking bread, meat, clothes, of trying to carry away a child, and of attempting to stab men and women who opposed them in the commission of such petty lawlessness. In reply to these latter charges, Hagler said that the Indians were often at war with their enemies, and that it was not always possible for them to hunt and to get bread for themselves; that under such circumstances they had gone to the houses of white people and had asked for something to eat, but that the whites would hide everything from them and say there was nothing for them. Hagler, continuing, said the Indians under such circumstances had often searched the houses of the whites for food and found it. He averred that one of his wild young men merely pretended he was going to carry away the child mentioned by the whites in order to surprise the child's parents and have a joke at their expense.

The whites then accused Hagler's warriors of other acts of theft, and Hagler replied that he had some warriors who had stolen knives, clothes, and the like, although cautioned not to do so. Hagler told the whites that they themselves

were responsible for many of the crimes they charged against the Indians, as they rotted grain in tubs and made strong drink of it and sold and gave it to the Indians, causing them to get very drunk and to commit all manner of excesses. Hagler recommended that the whites take some steps to prevent the selling of liquor to the Indians.

The commissioners then presented the charge of horse stealing against the Indians, a crime which they said was punishable by death among the whites. Hagler replied by saying that the Indians had also had many of their own horses stolen by white people; that they had lately caught one white man with some of their horses and carried him before a South Carolina justice of the peace, but the man was not punished.

The Indians made many speeches during this meeting, all professing friendship for the whites. In one of his talks Hagler said that the Great Man Above made us all, as well as this island; that he fixed the Indian's forefathers here; that in the early days the Indians had no instruments to make a living, only bows and arrows of stone; that they had no knives, and cut their hair by burning it off their heads and bodies with live coals of fire; that they had only stone axes; that they bled themselves with fish teeth, and wore clothes of skin and furs. But now Hagler said that his brethren enjoyed the clothes which they got from the whites, as well as many other conveniences, and that the Indians wished to live in peace with their white neighbors. Hagler was very urgent in calling the attention of the commissioners to the selling and giving away of whiskey to the Indians, and asked that such practices be stopped. The chief said that many of his warriors had lately died from the effects of whiskey, and that many of the crimes committed by his people were directly traceable to the use of liquor. The conference broke up and a better understanding between the Catawbas and whites seems to have resulted.

During the year 1755, Governor Dobbs visited this section and selected a site for a fort on Fourth creek, in the

territory between Salisbury and the present town of Statesville. This fort, named in honor of the Governor, was erected and a company of soldiers under Hugh Waddell sent to occupy it and to guard the frontiers. It was built of oak logs, fifty-three by forty feet, twenty-four and a half feet high, with three floors in it, and room for the discharge of one hundred muskets at one time. It is said that a garrison of forty-eight men remained there during the year 1756.

During 1756, a fort was begun at the Catawba nation. Governor Dobbs visited the Catawbas in 1755, and no doubt selected the site for this fort, as well as the one in Rowan. The government of the province procured a tract of six hundred and forty acres, on which to erect the fort, at a cost of £60, but it appears that the work was never completed, as the Catawbas did not like the idea of its erection so near them, thinking, no doubt, the whites would use it to oppress them. When the Indians became restless on account of its erection, they were, by the Governor's order, given presents amounting to £42 12s. 9d. The work done at the fort was finally abandoned after something like £1,000 had been expended.

While the white people were busy trying to erect the fort at the Catawba nation, the settlers on Broad river sent another complaint to the Legislature, reciting the perpetration of several robberies by strolling bands of Indians, presumably Cherokees, headed by some French and Northern Indians, who hoped thereby to provoke the settlers to some violence that they might have a pretext to murder or to bring on a general Indian war. These acts of villainy continued all through the summer of 1756, and until late in the fall. The people on the frontiers said that the garrison at Fort Dobbs and the militia aiding that garrison could do little in case of a general Indian uprising, and hence the back settlers were being forced to retire from their lands and take up their residence in the inner settlements. Many of the settlers, forced from their homes, took refuge, in the fall

of 1756, with the Moravians at Bethabara, which town was enclosed with palisades.

Notwithstanding the Catawbas had been well treated by the whites and had been given guns, clothing and presents of various kinds, and even a fort had been begun in their border as a protection both to themselves and to the whites, and had been abandoned at their behest, these Indians became restless and cruel in the year 1757, and began to insult the whites and do many acts of petty violence. They went so far in their violence as to go to Salisbury while the District Court was in session and insult the Chief Justice.

In May, 1758, the Rowan people informed the Assembly that the frequency of Indian outrages on the head waters of the Dan river had caused the settlers on the forks of the Yadkin to leave their homes and retire "farther inland." Outrages on the Dan continued, as well as murders and robberies all along the western frontiers, during the year 1758 and in the spring of 1759, so much so that Governor Dobbs laid the condition of the frontier settlers before the Assembly and Colonel Hugh Waddell was given two companies of provincial troops and power to order out the militia of Anson, Rowan and Orange counties to punish the Cherokees.

In the fall of 1759, Governor Lyttleton, of South Carolina, appealed to Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia to aid him in an expedition against the Cherokees. Colonel Waddell was requested by Governor Dobbs to order out the militia of Orange, Rowan and Anson counties and join the militia with his regular troops and march to the aid of the South Carolina Governor. But the great body of the militia refused to leave the borders of the province, only eighty out of five hundred militiamen remaining with Colonel Waddell; the others either deserted or went home without leave, an action on their part which Governor Dobbs attributed to lack of education and schools and a pious clergy. Waddell's remaining force was, however, met and turned back, as Governor Lyttleton had made peace with the Indians and no fighting became necessary, the treaty being signed Octo-

ber 26, 1759. The Indians soon broke this peace, the garrison at Prince George Fort, where the Cherokee chiefs were imprisoned as hostages, being enticed away and murdered. This was the signal for a general Cherokee uprising, and massacre and assassination began. The Creeks were drawn into the war. Fort Loudon fell and the frontiers of this province were again at the mercy of the Cherokees.

In 1760 the Cherokee depredations forced the Moravians to guard their town day and night. Refugee settlers in large numbers crowded into Bethabara, which forced the building of Bethany, three miles from Bethabara, for the accommodation of these refugees and the protection of the Moravians themselves. Only extreme vigilance and the constant ringing of the church bells prevented an Indian attack. But the Cherokees were not content to rob and murder the frontier people and to threaten the Moravians and their refugees; they openly attacked Fort Dobbs February 27, 1769, and were repulsed by Waddell and his garrison. Ten or twelve Indians were killed or wounded, one white boy was killed and two white men were wounded, one of whom was scalped.

These events determined the whites to put an end to Indian outrages. Troops from Virginia and both Carolinas were assembled, the North Carolina troops under Waddell. The Virginians and North Carolinians entered the upper Cherokee country, while Colonel Grant, with the South Carolinians, entered the lower country of the Cherokees. Grant's forces met the Indians near the present town of Franklin and defeated them. During the next month the whites destroyed the Indian towns and corn fields and inflicted such a heavy blow upon the Cherokee nation that it was forced to sue for peace. This Indian campaign of 1761 broke forever the power of the Cherokees and reduced their strength so much that they, like the Catawbias, became friends of the whites, as they knew it was now to their advantage.

These Indian troubles had continued for seven years. Many of the settlers were driven away, some were killed,

others were scalped. Farming and home-building were much retarded, and new settlers who would have moved in from Pennsylvania and other colonies were frightened away. It was not until the beginning of 1763 that the frontier people began to take up life again where it had been interrupted, and the militia of Mecklenburg and adjoining counties could be said to be able once more to feel that Indian troubles had ended.

## CHAPTER III.

### EARLY SETTLERS. (1740 to 1762.)

**Original Homes of the Immigrants—Their Nationalities—Traits of Character—Religious Persecutions in the Old Country, and Subsequent Removal to America and Mecklenburg County.**

Immigrants to Mecklenburg county came from three directions. One wave rolled southward from Western Pennsylvania and Virginia—the Scotch-Irish, who had had large experience in the selection of good lands. These were followed closely by the Germans from the same region, who settled mainly the territory now occupied by Cabarrus, Lincoln and Gaston counties, but who also peopled Mecklenburg proper and passed over into South Carolina with the Scotch-Irish, settling the northwestern portion. This wave of immigrants was met by another wave a little later from the south, coming by way of Charleston and Georgetown—a mixed multitude of English, Scotch, Germans, Huguenots and Swiss, who found in the low country by the sea too great a contrast to their own mountain homes. While these two waves were mingling, the third wave rolled in from the east, mainly English, and finding the best lands taken, settled the next best or passed through into the lands to the west and south. The sections which were settled by these different peoples retain the traces of nationality in their names and in the churches; the Scotch-Irish and Huguenots with the English dissenters uniting to build Presbyterian churches, while the Lutheran and German Reform churches mark the German settlements. By the beginning of the Revolutionary War the representatives of these different nationalities were fast intermingling by marriage.

A petition to the Council concerning the lands which were at first considered in Mecklenburg and then were put in

South Carolina show 140 names of English origin, 47 Scotch, 7 German and 6 French.

In 1755, Governor Dobbs visited the present county of Cabarrus, where he owned large tracts of land, and he found seventy-five families already settled on his lands. He reported that these families contained eight or ten children each, and that some "Irish Protestants" had settled together in order to have a preacher and a school teacher of their own. There were also twenty-two German and Swiss families on his lands. The actual settling of Mecklenburg county by permanent home-seekers began about 1748. From that time on a stream of settlers poured in from the north. In 1754, they had settled on Broad river and were asking for protection from the Indians. In 1757 the Selwyn tracts of land, one of which is now partly occupied by the city of Charlotte, contained something less than 400 souls.

In 1755, Rev. Hugh McAden made a missionary visit through Mecklenburg. He found the Scotch-Irish settled at Rocky River, Sugar Creek, in the Waxhaws, and on what is now Broad river, in South Carolina. The earliest land grants are dated 1749, but between 1750 and 1758 many hundreds of such grants were issued. There was probably only a short time generally between the issuing of the grant and the settlement of the land. Rocky river and its tributaries were the first water courses occupied by the settlers, and by 1762 all the streams mentioned in the first chapter are recorded in land grants, patents and deeds.

To understand and appreciate the history of the people of Mecklenburg, we must know something of the origin and history of these early settlers. John Knox, the great Scottish reformer, was not only the apostle of religion, but of liberty as well, to his people. When he said, "If princes exceed their bounds they may be resisted by force," he set the rights of the people over against the right claimed for the king and sometimes called the "Divine right of kings." Mr. Froude calls this

saying "the creed of republics in its first hard form." Knox was also the apostle of popular education. Carlyle says of him: "He sent the schoolmaster into all corners, saying, 'let the people be taught.'" Scotland was a different land after the life and labors of John Knox.

In the reign of James the First, of England and Scotland, two Irish nobles rebelled against him, and the king took possession of their lands in the north of Ireland. He wished to settle this region, about half a million acres of land, with Protestants, to balance the Catholic power which held the rest of Ireland, and so he offered inducements to the Scotch to emigrate to North Ireland. This country was called Ulster. Rev. Andrew Stewart, one of their ministers, wrote: "The king had a natural love to have Ireland planted with Scots, as being of a middle temper, between the English tender and the Irish rude breeding, and a great deal more likely to adventure to plant Ireland."

The Scotch emigrated to Ireland in great numbers. In the first fifty years of their settling they numbered 200,000. By the beginning of the Eighteenth century they numbered a million, and they carried with them to Ireland their fondness for education and their love of liberty. They were thrifty and industrious and they prospered. Their prosperity excited the jealousy of their English rivals in manufactures, and the British Parliament began to pass laws restricting their woolen trade, so the Scotch-Irish, as they were afterwards called, began to leave Ireland. In 1698, 20,000 of them left Ulster for America. Not content with oppressive taxation, the Parliament began to interfere with the religion of the Ulsterites. They were forbidden to have school teachers of their own and forbidden to hold any office higher than that of petty constable. Their ministers were forbidden to perform the marriage ceremony, and when they did, the marriage was declared to be illegal. So the Scotch left their Irish home in an exodus that has been compared to the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt.

In 1727 six emigrant ships full of Scotch-Irish arrived at Philadelphia in one week, and all through the first half of the Eighteenth century it was not uncommon for two or three emigrant ships a day to reach America from Ireland. Then just a little after Mecklenburg county was organized, the rents of the tenants who were left in Ireland were raised and thousands of them driven from their farms by force. Two years after this, 30,000 Scotch-Irish came to America in one year.

Some of them went to New England and settled there. There was one Scotch-Irish church which had 750 members. They settled a good part of New York. They peopled New Jersey. They took possession of the Quaker City, Philadelphia, and filled up Western Pennsylvania, with Pittsburg as the centre of their colony. Then as the Pennsylvania lands were taken, they moved southward and westward. They were among the pioneer settlers of Kentucky and Tennessee. They occupied the fertile Valley of Virginia and peopled the western counties so that they soon outvoted their cavalier brethren in the eastern counties. Thomas Jefferson said of Patrick Henry, whom he styled "Our leader in the measures of the Revolution in Virginia," that "his influence was most extensive with the members from the upper counties."

As these upper counties of Virginia were filled and the best lands taken, the Scotch-Irish moved southward, as we have seen, into North Carolina, through Guilford, Orange, Alamance, Rowan, Iredell, Cabarrus and Mecklenburg counties. Mecklenburg was the centre of this emigration southward from Virginia and Pennsylvania. Everywhere these Scotch-Irish people were advocates of education and of liberty. When we come to Revolutionary times, we learn that the great majority of the patriots in New York were Scotch-Irish; that the Scotch-Irish, numbering in Pennsylvania a third of the whole population, stood as a unit for independence and contributed a majority of the troops of the Keystone State. General Washington said that if he had been

defeated at Yorktown, he would have fallen back upon the Scotch-Irish of the Valley of Virginia. We shall see that the Scotch-Irish of Mecklenburg were of the same spirit, and simply gave earlier expression to it than their brethren elsewhere.

The first Germans known to have reached this section were three young farmers. They were all probably Redemptioners. This term was used in connection with white apprentices, and afterwards applied to poor emigrants who were not able to pay their passage to America and were willing to enter into contracts in order to pay back the funds advanced for their passage across the ocean. The names of these three Germans were Barringer, Smith and Dry. When they had worked out their term of service they started on their perilous march from Pennsylvania to the South, passing by a savage Indian camp and the French frontiersmen, following the old buffalo trail, known as the Indian trading path, until they reached the Yadkin at the trading fort; but when they crossed the Yadkin they were surprised to find that the Scotch-Irish were just ahead of them, having taken up the choicest spots up and down the Catawba; so these Germans turned to the left, following the right bank of the Yadkin, and finally located on the high ground between the present Cold Water and Buffalo creeks. This was then Bladen county.

About the year 1745 the news of the good land of freedom went back to Pennsylvania and then reached the millions of the Fatherland. They came from all directions, chiefly from Pennsylvania, but often from Charleston and Wilmington, settling the northeastern borders of Mecklenburg as well as Rowan and Stanly. These Germans came from the upper regions of Germany, Wurtenburg, Baden, and especially from the Palatinate, which had been so mercilessly ravaged by Louis the Sixteenth. They were intelligent, labor loving, industrious Protestants, who fled from persecution. They built their houses here on high ground, often on

the tops of the hills, after the fashion of the ancient German castles. They were hardy, self-reliant, frugal and courageous. They clung to Luther's translation of the Bible. They tolerated no idlers among them. The children were trained and skilled in all hard labor and handicraft, and they defended their homes heroically when they were summoned to vindicate the rights which they had secured. They took part in almost every expedition against the Indians, and a very active part in General Rutherford's march against the Cherokees in 1776, a young German called Matthias Barringer being one of the very few killed. The Germans traded with Salisbury on the north and with Cross Creek, now Fayetteville, on the east, rather than Charleston. They did not figure as prominently in the affairs in which Charlotte was concerned on account of the rivalry which grew up between the Charlotte and Cabarrus sections.

These German Protestants respected just authority, were God-fearing, peaceful and law-abiding. They had their sports and their amusements, their Easter holiday and their Chris Cringle frolics. They were guiltless of dissipation and debauchery, and even their amusements partook rather of skill and labor than of useless sport. Their quiltings, corn shuckings, log rollings, house raisings, all tended to develop manliness and womanliness as well as to cultivate the social virtues. Their family government was excellent, combining for them the State, the Church and the School, and their thrift and economy laid the foundations for comfort and wealth.

The French settlers were mostly Huguenots who were also the victims of religious persecution in the Old World and sought freedom of conscience in the New. The Swiss were from the Palatinate and near akin to their German neighbors in religious belief. A large colony of Swiss in South Carolina was almost destroyed by the fever of the lowlands near the coast, where they first settled, and the mention of the Swiss families by Governor Dobbs is probably the

explanation of what became of the survivors. They would naturally tend toward the hill country, as more nearly like their own home.

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*Authority:*—General Rufus Barringer's Address and Wheeler's Sketches and Old Records.

## CHAPTER IV.

### INDUSTRIES AND CUSTOMS. (1745 to 1762.)

#### How the Settlers Built Their Homes—Their First Mills and Occupations—Trading—Social Life and Diversions.

The early settlers of Mecklenburg were not idlers and many of them were skilled in various industrial arts. They had everything to do for themselves in the wilderness in which they made their home. When they came, there were no cleared fields, no roads, no schools or churches, no mills to grind their corn and wheat, no shops to make their hoes and plows and axes, and not even houses to shelter them. There were no saw mills and no brickyards. But the settlers had something that was even better than the possession of all these things. They had the knowledge and the skill to make the wilderness blossom as the rose. They knew how to make things and they made them.

As early as 1750, some of them were doing business with Charleston. In order to buy what they could not make, they must have something to sell. They sent to Charleston over an Indian trail, which passed near Charlotte and which is now the route of the Charlotte & Columbia Railroad, the products which their cattle yielded—tallow, cheese, butter and hides. Then as they began to raise grain and fruits, they manufactured whiskey and brandy. With these they bought in Charleston salt, iron, and household goods, with now and then a slave to help in the work on the plantation. As the farmers could not afford to go to Charleston often, there began to be built country stores in the different neighborhoods—in Paw Creek, Hopewell, Steele Creek, Providence, Sugar Creek, Rocky River.

The people made their own hats and shoes, and wove their own cloth. They were hatters and shoemakers and weavers and tailors. They raised indigo for dyeing. They raised

flax and made it into linen. They raised tobacco and it became quite a profitable crop, as the world was then learning how to smoke. But at first it was easier to raise cattle than anything else, and the settlers not only sent them to Charleston, but drove them to Philadelphia. Later Virginia bought all the cattle sent northward.

These pioneer settlers slept in their wagons until they built a house to shelter them, cutting down the trees of the forest and hewing the logs into shape. They daubed the spaces between the logs with clay and covered the roof with boards riven out of the logs. These houses had one room and one door and one window. Sometimes the people could afford a glass window. Generally they let in the air with the light and shut out both with a wooden shutter. When they did not have planks for a floor, they used the floor they found there—the ground. Inside the house were probably two beds, a trunk, some pewter dippers and plates, a dozen spoons, some wooden trenchers and piggins, and a few stools or chairs. The farmer would have a few plow irons, a hoe or two, a mattock, some harrow teeth, an axe, a broad-axe, an iron wedge, two or three mauls, a chisel, and an auger. These were all he needed at first, and he brought them with him from North or South. He would have fifty head of cattle, three or four horses, twenty hogs, and a few sheep and geese. The sheep gave their wool and the geese their feathers to make the folk comfortable by day and night. When the family began to buy cups and saucers, and glass and china ware from Charleston, they were considered wealthy.

The things they brought with them began to wear out and so the blacksmiths built their shops, and the weavers set up their looms and the tailor brought out his goose. And the hides were not all carried to Charleston to trade for leather, but tanneries were built to make leather at home. Then rude mills were set up on the water courses to grind the wheat and corn, and the carpenters and blacksmiths together built saw mills to turn the logs into boards. One of the first saw mills and flour mills was built on Rocky river and owned by

Moses Alexander. Richard Barry had a tanyard in operation in Hopewell. Thomas Polk had a saw mill and grist mill near Charlotte before 1767. The mills did a good business and leather and flour began to be sold in Charleston instead of hides and wheat. The settlers were learning the great law of prosperity—that they could keep their money at home by manufacturing things for themselves and that the manufactured products brought more money in the markets than the raw products.

In January, 1767, John McKnitt Alexander made “a great coat” for Andrew Bowman, which had nine large and three small buttons, the seam sewed and the button holes worked with mohair thread. Three yards and three inches of broadcloth were used, costing two pounds and fifteen shillings; the buttons and thread cost two shillings. The charge for making the coat was seven shillings, and Mr. Bowman was no doubt sumptuously arrayed when he donned this raiment. The women made all their own dresses and the material for them. They spun the wool and cotton and wove it into linsey and checks and colored it according to their own fancy. When Jeremiah McCafferty set up his store in Charlotte, in 1770, he sold persian, camblett, mits, forrest cloth, oznaburgs, and calico. But with calico at eight shillings a yard, these were materials that only the wealthy could afford. Buttons, thread and pins were very costly, and the housewives had to be very economical with salt and sugar, as they were high priced and difficult to get.

Early title-deeds show the occupations of the people who bought and sold the lands in Mecklenburg, and it is recorded that these hardy pioneers were weavers, joiners, coopers, wheelwrights, wagon makers, tailors, teachers, blacksmiths, hatters, merchants, laborers, wine makers, miners, rope makers, surveyors, fullers and “gentlemen.” “Gentlemen” denoted then a certain rank rather than the possession of certain qualities. The first Mecklenburgers were producers. They believed that any work, so it were faithfully and honestly done, was worth doing, and that manhood was

more than wealth. Mecklenburg could have existed comfortably cut off from the rest of the world. That makes a people feel independent. And when a man has built his home in the woods with his own hands, and furnished it, and cleared his own little plot of ground, and is beginning to be comfortable, he does not feel much like paying taxes out of his small earnings to a King or a Parliament over the seas, without any representation in the matter for himself and his rights.

Nearly every farm had a distillery for turning grain and fruit into whiskey and brandy. These liquors were used freely by all, but it would be a mistake to suppose that the people were intemperate. Spirits were deemed a necessity on the plantations. It was cheaper to distill than to buy. Moreover, the distance from the markets, Charleston being the nearest, was so great that it was easier to carry the products of the granaries and orchards in liquid form than in bulk. Every teacher's account with the farmers contains a credit of whiskey, and the preachers were also temperate drinkers. Among the effects of Rev. Alexander Craighead, sold at his sale, were a punch bowl and glasses. One custom that seems singular to us was the use of liquor at funerals. The people came a long distance and refreshments were served at the graveyards and churches. Whiskey played a leading part in these refreshments, though wine, which was more expensive, was also used. In 1767, seven gallons of whiskey were consumed at one funeral, costing five shillings to the gallon, the same being charged to the estate. Another occasion on which whiskey was used was at the "vendue" or sale of an estate. The amount of whiskey charged to the estate varied with the size of the sale and the number in attendance. It seems to have been taken for granted that a liberal use of the beverage would be repaid in the higher price the buyers would bid under the mellowing effect of the liquor.

One of the famous institutions of these early days was the old time tavern. The taverns sprung up along all the public roads. There were several in Charlotte. There was a

good deal of travel through this section, between the North and the South, from early times. The tavern was not only a lodging place where meals were served, but a public house as well, where all kinds of liquors were served and where the punch bowl was an indispensable piece of furniture. From the variety of the liquors one is reminded of Dickens' tales of merry England in the stage coach days. The host of these early days was a genial and popular fellow, and the tavern became a meeting place for the men of the community, where they exchanged their ideas or confirmed their prejudices as the case might be, getting now and then from the travelers passing through, the news of the outside world.

Horse racing, the game of "long bullets," shooting matches and other outdoor sports of like nature were the diversions for the early settlers. "Long bullets" was a famous game, played with a large iron ball, the effort of one side being to keep the ball from passing their goal and at the same time to force it beyond the goal of the adversary. One of the first ordinances passed by the town of Charlotte forbade this game being played in the streets. Betting at horse races was common, there remaining to this day evidences of money borrowed on occasions of this kind in order to indulge the gambling propensity at Thom's or Campbell's Race Tracks. But while gambling was permitted, profanity was sternly forbidden, and was frequently punished by the county courts. After 1774, there are numerous instances of people being fined for profane swearing, the amount of the fine depending upon the number of oaths of which the culprit was convicted.

At the four county courts each year people came together from all parts of the county, and the court meetings were great occasions for trading wares and exchanging views. Then there was an annual election of the members of the Provincial Assembly, which was the signal for a gathering of all the leading men. The most prosperous of the people frequently visited Charleston and even Philadelphia, and they brought back with them newspapers and publications

of the day. But one of the greatest institutions for bringing the people together was the muster. While this was at first nominally a military assembly, it soon became a social and political occasion. The military companies were kept in efficient condition for muster day, and it grew to be the chief opportunity for the public discussion of political issues. Such questions as the McCulloh land disturbances, the boundary dispute, the vestry and marriage acts, the Regulation troubles, and all the questions relating to the issues between the colonies and the mother country were discussed at the muster meetings. So the people were by no means ill-informed as to what was going on in the world. The children generally received six months of "schooling" for two or three years, and at the outbreak of the Revolution there was a fair number of college-bred men in the community, perhaps more in proportion to the population than at present.

The first settlers of the county from Virginia and Pennsylvania doubtless brought the currency of those colonies with them, and this was probably the first paper money put in circulation in this section. The "hard money" of that day consisted of English, Spanish and German coins, with now and then one of French mintage. From the account of a loan to Jean Cathey by George Cathey, we learn that "ten silver dollars" were valued at four pounds English money, while "one dubloone in gold" was worth six pounds. After Charleston became the principal market for Mecklenburg, South Carolina currency became common, but there was never a sufficient volume of currency for the needs of the population. Chief Justice Hasell, who held Salisbury Court in 1776, says that there was scarcely any specie circulating among the people, not enough to pay the stamp tax.

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*Authority:*—County and Private Records.

## CHAPTER V.

### FORMATION OF THE COUNTY. (1762.)

**Creation of Mecklenburg from Anson—Origin of the Names of the County and the City of Charlotte—Physical Description of the Country at that Time.**

In North Germany are two little duchies that go by the name of Mecklenburg, Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Mecklenburg-Strelitz. From Mecklenburg-Strelitz, in the year 1761, went a young princess to be the wife of George the Third and Queen of England, and her name was Charlotte. The marriage was a popular one, and there was great rejoicing in England, and after a while the news of it reached the Piedmont section of North Carolina, where the people were just about to make two counties out of one. The name of the old county was Anson, named for the Admiral Anson whose good ship carried the young princess, Charlotte, to England. The new county was named Mecklenburg in honor of the queen who had come from old Mecklenburg, in Germany, and to do her still more honor, they called their town Charlotte. It must have been very pleasant to the king to think how loyal to the mother country and the royal family were the people of Mecklenburg and its "Queen City" of Charlotte, in St. George's Parish, in the Colony of North Carolina. It was his own fault if he afterwards had cause to change his mind about them.

The year 1761 was memorable in the history of the world. England and France had been fighting on land and on sea, and some of the land fighting had been done in America. During the war the Americans learned that they could fight as well as or better than the English soldiers could in this wild forest-land. In the year 1762, the war was finished and the Treaty of Paris was signed. By that treaty the French practically gave up North America to the British, and Spain





CHARLOTTE  
PRINCESS OF MECKLENBURG  
Later Queen of England by marriage to George III  
Hence Charlotte, Queen City, Mecklenburg County,  
NORTH CAROLINA  
Copyright, 1901 by D.A. Tompkins

gave England part of Florida in return for Havana, in Cuba. The colonists observed another thing in the war, and that was that they were not so dependent as before upon the protection of the mother country, now that the French armies did not threaten them. They began to talk more independently. In England, there was at that time, and is now, an "Established Church" supported by taxes levied on the people. This was the Church of England, or what is now known in America as the Protestant Episcopal Church. At home, its bishops and other clergy had the right to levy church taxes or tithes, and this system was put into operation in the American colonies. The next year after the passage of the act creating Mecklenburg county, a young lawyer stood up before the judges, in Hanover county, Virginia, to defend the rights of the people against the oppressive taxation by the clergy. His name was Patrick Henry, and the jury that heard his eloquent defence gave the parsons "penny damages," and the brave words of the young lawyer rang throughout the colonies.

Arthur Dobbs was Governor of the colony, James Hasell was President of the Council and John Ashe was Speaker of the Assembly, when the act was passed creating the county of Mecklenburg, December 11, 1762. The bill had been introduced by Anthony Hutchins into the Assembly, accompanied by a petition "of several of the inhabitants of Anson county;" and Nathaniel Alexander, afterwards Governor of North Carolina, who represented the Rocky river section, used his influence in having the wishes of his constituents carried out as to the new county. December 31, of the same year, at the meeting of the Governor's Council, Alexander Lewis, Nathaniel Alexander, John Thomas, Robert McClenahan, Paul Barringer, Henry Foster, Robert Miller, Robert Harris, Richard Barry, Martin Phifer, Robert Ramsey, James Robinson, Matthew Floyd, Abraham Alexander, Thomas Polk and James Patton, were appointed His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the new county, and they represented the Rocky River, Clear Creek, Sugar Creek, Wax-

haw, Hopewell and Broad River settlements. And when, on the 26th of February, 1763, Moses Alexander, as High Sheriff, and Robert Harris, as Clerk of the Court and Register of Deeds, took charge of their respective offices, the history of the county may be said to have begun.

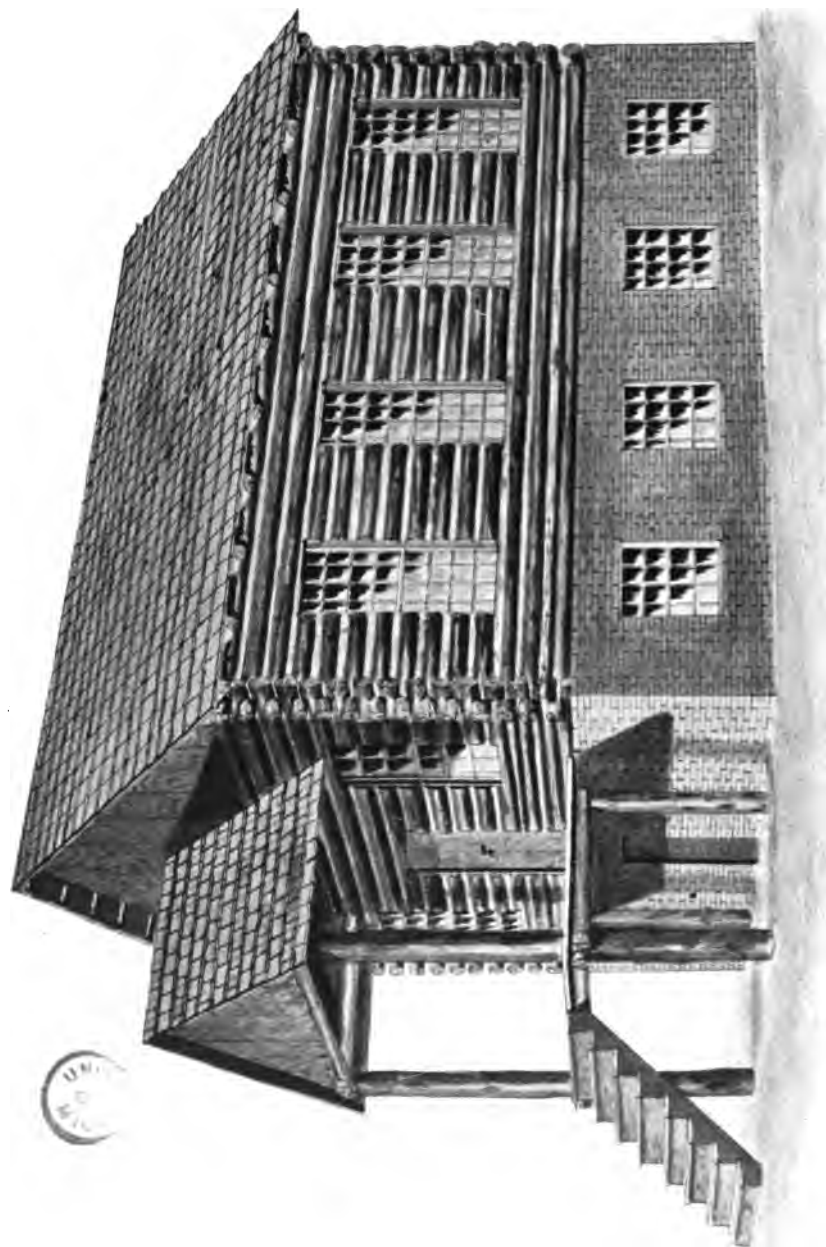
This Piedmont country was being rapidly settled, and the people did not want to travel so far to the county seat to have their legal business transacted. So, just as Anson was formed out of Bladen, then the most westerly county, and just as Rowan and Mecklenburg grew out of Anson, so in November, 1768, a bill, introduced by Martin Phifer, was passed dividing the original Mecklenburg county into two, one called Mecklenburg county and St. Martin's Parish, and the other Tryon county and St. Thomas' Parish. Later still, in 1792, Cabarrus county was cut off from Mecklenburg, and again in 1842, Union county was made out of Mecklenburg territory. But as Mecklenburg included both Cabarrus and Union during the whole Revolutionary period, the history of one is the history of all three.

It was a wild and strange country which the early settlers found. There was probably little cleared land, though some accounts speak of the country between Sugar creek and Rocky river as a fertile plain, covered with pea vines and grass. But the hills and probably most of the valleys were covered with primeval forests. The old title-deeds mention as marks on the dividing lines, an ash, an oak, post-oak, white oak, black oak, red oak or water oak, a maple, a poplar, a beech, or a hickory. Through these forests roamed deer and buffalo, and in the dense undergrowth, panthers, wild-cats, black bears, and wolves made their lairs. There were squirrels and turkeys and pheasants in abundance. There were beaver dams on Paw creek and Steele creek. The only road was one Indian trail through Mecklenburg, from the Yadkin river to the Catawba nation, with here and there the beaten path of the buffalo herds.

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*Authority:*—State and County Records.





FIRST COURT HOUSE.

## CHAPTER VI.

### BEGINNING OF CHARLOTTE. (1762 to 1772.)

**Influences Which Tended to the Necessity for a Town—Difficulty in Obtaining a Charter—The First Court House—Laws of the New Town.**

Mecklenburg county, as at first constituted, contained all of the present county, Cabarrus, Gaston, Lincoln and a part of Union. The total area was four or five times as great as it is today. In 1766, the population of Mecklenburg was about five thousand, and this grew to six thousand within the next two years. Increase in population and development of the natural resources were rapid and continuous after government was firmly established.

In the latter part of 1765, Henry Eustace McCulloh donated a tract of three hundred and sixty acres of land to John Frohock, Abraham Alexander and Thomas Polk, as commissioners, to hold in trust for the county of Mecklenburg, on which to erect a court house, prison and stocks. McCulloh was the agent of Augustus Selwyn, who owned several immense tracts of land on a grant from the king, making it obligatory upon him to settle them with an average of one person to every two hundred acres. He foresaw that the interests of his employer would be advanced by the location of the county seat on his land. The courts before this time had been held at Spratts, just outside the present city limits, and as the proposed town was near the centre of the county, circumstances were apparently favorable to his plans, but objection was made by the people in the Rocky river section, who desired the court house to be located nearer to them.

The first representatives of Mecklenburg in the General Assembly were Martin Phifer, from Rocky river; and Thomas Polk, who favored the new town. In 1766, Mr.

Phifer introduced a bill to enable the commissioners of Charlotte to lay off the town in squares and streets and lots, and to erect a court house, prison and stocks. Nothing was said about the county seat or where courts should be held, and on this account, the bill was defeated by the friends of Charlotte led by Polk.

In this year, there was a large increase of population west of the Catawba river, and a new county was proposed. It was evident that if this plan succeeded, Charlotte would not then be in the centre of Mecklenburg, but her partisans, with a wise foresight, took advantage of the opportunity and erected a court house at their own expense. The building was erected at the intersection of Trade and Tryon streets, which were named about that time, and was in the centre of the square. It was a long structure, supported by pillars ten feet high, and a stairway was on the outside; the upper room was for court and public meetings, while the space below was used for a market. Martin Phifer, however, succeeded in having passed his bill creating Tryon county, but Thomas Polk had attached to it an amendment providing that the courts of Mecklenburg should for a period of seven years be held in the Charlotte court house. It is very probable that the county seat would have been located elsewhere had there not been a court house already built in Charlotte.

Previous to the passage of this bill, all efforts to have Charlotte incorporated had failed, but the objections were now withdrawn and the bill making Charlotte a town legally was enacted and became a law in November, 1768. This act added Richard Barry and George Allen to the old commissioners, and these five men were instructed to lay off one hundred acres of the town in half-acre lots and to carry out the requirements of the charter, but no provision was made for ordinances of the town government. Thomas Polk was required to give a bond as treasurer.

The law stipulated that for every town lot taken, an annual rent of one shilling should be paid to the town treas-

urer, and a dwelling should be erected on the lot within three years on penalty of forfeiture. Eighty lots had already been taken, and on some of them dwelling houses had been built. The ordinary house was made of sawed or hewn logs, and the cracks were filled with mud and straw or sticks. There was one large room twenty feet square, with high roof, and sometimes the bedrooms were partitioned off from this room with curtains or planks. Light was admitted through one window, which was generally closed with a wooden shutter, but sometimes with glass panes. The common chimney was made of stones, the better one of brick, and the poorer one of logs covered on the inside with mud. The roof was made of clap-boards fastened with home-made iron spikes or nails.

Those early issues of our history occasioned much partisan strife and considerable bitterness. In 1769, Martin Phifer was succeeded in the Assembly by Abraham Alexander, who, with Thomas Polk, continued to represent the county until 1773, when they were succeeded by Martin Phifer and John Davidson. Mr. Davidson introduced a bill to erect a permanent court house at Charlotte, and it passed both houses of the Assembly, but was vetoed by Governor Martin. The next year, Phifer was succeeded by Thomas Polk, and the agitation in favor of Charlotte continued. The temporary arrangement of seven years was about to end and some action was necessary. In December, 1773, Polk introduced a bill making Charlotte the permanent county seat and providing a regular town government, but the bill was not acted upon because of the dismissal of the Assembly by Governor Martin.

Polk re-introduced the bill at the next session, and it became a law in March, 1774. Its passage settled the question for all time, and allayed much of the bitter feeling that had been engendered. This act repealed the law of 1768 requiring the erection of a building on every town lot, unless the lot was located on Tryon or Trade street. Jeremiah McCafferty, William Patterson and Isaac Alexander were added to

the commissioners in place of some who were dead or removed from the province. The commissioners were given power to require every taxable person in the town to work on the streets six days each year; any one failing to so work was to be fined five shillings for each day of such failure.

Before this time there had been considerable agitation regarding road-building, and efforts had been made to have roads laid off and worked from Charlotte to Charleston and from Charlotte to Fayetteville. Commissioners were appointed for the latter work in 1771, and others were put in their places two years later.

In 1774, Charlotte covered less than one hundred acres of land, but the population increased steadily, and in 1778, the law was revised to permit the laying off of eighty more lots, as all the original ones had been taken and most of them well improved with good buildings. The reasons assigned for the growth were that Charlotte was well situated for the inland trade and that Liberty Hall drew in many people to educate their children.

August 2, 1766, Governor Tryon wrote that this province was being settled rapidly and that more than a thousand emigrant wagons from the North had passed through Salisbury within a few months. These settlers were reported to be strong, healthy and industrious, and capable of various occupations.

The government of Mecklenburg was vested in a Sheriff, Clerk of the Court and sixteen Justices of the Peace. Charlotte was governed by the Board of Town Commissioners, but it seems that there were but few law-breakers, for the courts were occupied almost entirely with collecting quit-rents and settling disputes regarding conflicting claims to land.

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*Authority*:—Colonial and County Records, old Deeds and Official Papers, and Hunter's Sketches.

## CHAPTER VII.

### EARLY TROUBLES AND REGULATORS. (1762 to 1772.)

**Annoyances on Account of a Disputed Boundary Line—The McCulloh Land Riots—Surveying the Cherokee Boundary—Oppressive Taxes and Unjust Officers, and the Battle of Alamance.**

When Mecklenburg county was created, the boundary lines were not definitely determined. The line between North Carolina and South Carolina had been surveyed toward the west only so far as the Salisbury and Charleston road, near Waxhaw creek. This left in dispute practically all the southern boundary of Mecklenburg, and troubles of various kinds naturally resulted.

For several years, the sheriff of Anson had been openly defied. On one occasion he raised a posse to assist him, and a riot resulted that continued several days, during which time the sheriff was captured and imprisoned. The people causing this disturbance were a lawless element who had been driven out of South Carolina and other provinces, and had drifted to this region because of the protection afforded them by the disputed boundary. When North Carolina sheriffs called on them, they plead loyalty to South Carolina, and when officers from that section called, they claimed to be citizens of North Carolina. A militia company was organized on authority of a commission from the Governor of South Carolina. There were in the unsettled region many honest men who refused to pay their taxes until it was legally determined to which province they owed allegiance, fearing that if they paid to one, they would be later forced to duplicate the fees to the other.

In June, 1764, Henry Eustace McCulloh came to Mecklenburg to survey the Selwyn tracts of land, to grant titles to those deserving them and to eject those who refused to comply with the requirements. When he arrived, he was given

to understand that many of the settlers "would hold to the South" and oppose the running of any lines, and was threatened with personal violence if he attempted to carry out his plans. McCulloh suggested that the "South Men" hold a meeting and select a committee to confer with himself regarding a peaceable adjustment of the differences. This was accordingly done, and the committee, composed of James Norris, Thomas Polk, James Flennegin and George Allen, met the agent, and, after a long conference, reported to the people they represented that the terms proposed by Selwyn's agent were just and reasonable, and should be accepted.

McCulloh thought the troubles were now settled, and left the county, intending to return soon and complete his work, but when he came back in the following February, he discovered more opposition than at the previous time. Large bodies of armed men, sometimes numbering two hundred, and usually led by Thomas Polk, interfered with the surveying parties, broke the chains and continued to make threats. One party of good men who were surveying on one of the Selwyn tracts, was set upon and beaten severely. McCulloh was brave and persevering, and the opposition to his work began to weaken. Thomas Polk was the only really able man associated with the "South Men," and he appears to have done so in order to force the attention of the proper authorities to the necessity of surveying the boundary line. In 1765, he became friendly with McCulloh and was appointed one of Selwyn's surveyors for this county.

Open war with the Cherokee Indians ended in 1761, but for several years thereafter great annoyance was caused by the lack of a definite dividing line between Mecklenburg and the Cherokee country. In May, 1767, Governor Tryon yielded to the persistent entreaties and marched with one hundred men to perform the work. The troops in this expedition were commanded by General Hugh Waddell; and Colonel John Frohock, of Rowan, and Colonel Moses Alexander, of Mecklenburg, were among the subordinate officers. While this survey could have been made by half a dozen men,

yet Governor Tryon's military display had a salutary effect on the Indians, who cheerfully accepted the line as run and gave no further trouble until the white people began once more to encroach upon their territory. The Governor was, nevertheless, subjected to criticism because of the expense of the expedition, which some attributed solely to his well-known love for military glory.

William Tryon, in his first public utterance as Governor of North Carolina, said he was here to serve the people, but his actions soon gave ample proof that he was here to serve the Lords Proprietors and to execute their wishes. That he did his duty to his employers to the best of his ability, no one can deny. Just as he was ingratiating himself in the good graces of the people, he was called upon to enforce the provisions of the Stamp Act. The good people of Eastern North Carolina attended to this matter so that it never much concerned the people of Mecklenburg, but it had two results of far-reaching consequence to all the province. First, Governor Tryon harshly resolved to regain the lost dignity of his administration in whatever way he could; second, the people thereafter looked with suspicion upon anything originating with the Governor.

The trouble which culminated in the battle of Alamance began in 1761. The central counties complained of cruel and unjust officers, Tryon's extravagance in building his palace, extortion, corrupt courts, and of being compelled to pay taxes in money of which there was not a sufficient quantity in circulation. These charges were justified in some counties, but Mecklenburg was happily free from nearly all of it. This county had not been established long enough for the Governor to fill the offices with his favorites, so the sheriff and clerk and justices were among the most honored and trusted men.

Resistance to the officers in Orange, Anson, Rowan and other counties grew until it assumed a serious aspect. Men who were unable to defend themselves alone, banded together for self-protection and to work together for the regulation

of the injustices. In this way they came to be known as Regulators. From this state of affairs, Herman Husbands, a Quaker preacher, organized the discontented men into a systematic association. Meetings were held and petitions presented to the Governor, but they were refused or ignored.

It was inevitable that unlawful acts should result from the bitterness between the opposing parties. One day, in the summer of 1768, a horse was taken from a Regulator who had ridden into Hillsboro on business. That night the friends of the offended man regained the horse by force, and the same night some one fired into Edmund Fanning's house. Soon thereafter Husbands and several other Regulators were arrested and their trial set for the September court. Fanning was to be tried at the same time for collecting illegal fees, and both sides to the controversy expected trouble.

In August, Governor Tryon came to Mecklenburg to review the militia, which numbered nine hundred. During his stay in the county he was entertained by the Alexanders and Polks and other good families. He reviewed the troops and secured three hundred volunteers to go to Hillsboro to maintain order during the sessions of court. These men began the march September 12, and returned in October, the expected trouble having been averted. Husbands was acquitted of the charge against him and Fanning was found guilty, but was let off with a nominal fine. Before the Mecklenburg troops disbanded, they were complimented by the Governor for their splendid behavior.

The situation developed steadily, and in the Spring of 1771, each side prepared for a final test of strength. Husbands, having failed to get satisfaction by law and petitions, determined to make a show of force. Governor Tryon sent General Hugh Waddell through Rowan and Mecklenburg to raise troops for his cause, but General Waddell obtained only one hundred in this county. These, with nearly two hundred Rowan volunteers, were intercepted at the Yadkin

river and turned back by a superior force of Regulators, so they did not join the Governor until after the battle.

Meanwhile, Governor Tryon was marching westward with his army ten or twelve hundred strong. On the 17th of May, he was met near Alamance creek by a large body of the Regulators led by Husbands, who presented the cause of his followers. Tryon obstinately refused to make any promises or concessions, and seemed resolved to fight, even though he had no better reason than to send back to England the news of a "glorious victory."

The Regulators outnumbered Tryon's soldiers, but the latter had the advantage of military training and were well armed. Some of the followers of Husbands were not prepared for battle, and none of them had more than a dozen rounds of ammunition, but they fought like men until all hope was gone. After the battle ended, Governor Tryon ordered the immediate execution of a half-witted ignorant boy named James Few, and six of the prisoners taken were afterwards hung for treason. A number of Mecklenburg men were in the ranks of the Regulators, but as they had no organization among themselves, it is not possible to estimate their number.

Mecklenburg people recognized the justice of the cause for which the Regulators shed their blood, but they did not deem it prudent to make open resistance to authority at that time. The Phifers, Alexanders, Polks and other prominent citizens were not the kind of men who strike without carefully considering the consequences, but from May 17, 1771, independence of thought steadily developed into independence of action.

The young men were not so conservative as their fathers, and they did not hesitate to express sympathy for the men who were struggling against oppression. Col. Moses Alexander was commissary for General Waddell, and while his wagons, laden with powder, were passing through the county, they were captured and the powder was destroyed by nine boys who have since been known as "The Black Boys of

Mecklenburg." They blacked their faces and disguised themselves as Indians before attacking the wagons, and from this they gained their name. These boys were afterwards noble soldiers in the Revolution.

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*Authority:*—Colonial Records, Original Official Documents, Court and County Records, Caruther's Old North State, Waddell's Address on the Regulation, and Jones' Defense of North Carolina.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### THE APPROACHING STORM. (1772 to 1775.)

England's Position With Regard to America—Affairs in the Colonies.  
—Governor Martin's Dissensions With the Assembly—Rifle Factory in Charlotte—Polk Calls the Convention.

When England was confronted by the American disturbances, it was not the first time she faced the problem of conciliating a discontented dependency. Three precedents by which she might have been guided were the reclamation of Ireland, Wales and Chester. The four were analogous cases, each being governed by force without mercy until it became apparent that such government was hopeless; then the three were won by concessions and the fourth was lost by obstinacy.

Throughout the colonies, the five years preceding actual hostilities was a time of emotion and intense suspense. The feelings of the people were aroused in apprehension of the final struggle for their abstract rights. England's import taxes imposed upon the colonies had been practically suspended, but the Americans were plainly told that it was for expediency and not because of principle, and it was the principle for which the patriots contended. British troops were quartered on American soil at the beginning of 1775, and early in that year military strength superseded civil authority in Massachusetts.

When Josiah Martin became Governor of North Carolina, in 1771, he immediately began dissensions with the Assembly. The State's finances were in good condition and some of the taxes, being plainly unnecessary, were repealed by the Assembly. Though the bill was passed unanimously, it was promptly vetoed by the Governor, and from that time forth he waged continual war with the representatives of the people.

The Assembly of December, 1773, was dismissed by Governor Martin after having been in session only a few days. Before adjournment, however, a committee of nine good citizens was appointed to carry on correspondence with similar committees in the other provinces. Martin Phifer and John Davidson, representatives of Mecklenburg, were both present at this session. At this time, Thomas Polk was engaged in the work of surveying the boundary line between North Carolina and South Carolina.

Governor Martin having determined that no more Assemblies should convene until the people came to his way of thinking, John Harvey was authorized to call a congress of the people when he deemed it prudent. Accordingly, the call was issued for an election of representatives to a Provincial Congress to meet in New Bern in August of 1774. Governor Martin was astounded at this bold stroke, but his threats were unavailing and the Congress met at the appointed time. Mecklenburg county was represented by Benjamin Patton. Richard Caswell, William Hooper and Joseph Hewes were elected delegates to the Continental Congress, which met in Philadelphia, but at the same time a resolution was adopted declaring loyalty to the king.

The Governor was now in an embarrassing situation as he felt the reins of government slipping through his fingers, and, yielding to his Council, he called the Assembly to meet in New Bern in April, 1775. John Harvey called the second Provincial Congress to meet at the same time and place. With but few exceptions, the members of the two bodies were the same, and Harvey was Speaker of the Assembly and Moderator of the Congress. Nothing was accomplished at this session except the return of the same delegation to the Philadelphia Congress and the agreement of the members to not trade with British ports. Mecklenburg was not represented.

Mecklenburg people had distinguished themselves for conservatism, and it was quite evident that they favored no offensive action before affairs assumed a more definite shape.

County government had been established little more than a decade, the homes were hewn from primitive forests, industries were developing, and just as the people were prepared to enjoy the blessings of liberty and abundance, they were loath to accept the rumors of war.

They were, however, thinking of the issues of the day and were preparing to meet them. Edmund Burke, in his speech on "Conciliation," delivered in Parliament March 22, 1775, ascribed the independence of Americans politically in a considerable degree to their independence in religion. If it be true that independence was more rife among dissenters than others, this partially explains the action of Mecklenburg in that year, for it is probable that no where in the colonies did the Church of England have fewer followers. Both Governor Martin and Governor Tryon wrote of the discouragements to the Church in this section.

One phase of industry which had much influence on the trend of events, was the development of the rifle. The people of this region needed a serviceable weapon for aggressive use, and from the old New England blunderbuss they developed a long, well-made rifle that was inferior to none in the world. At the outbreak of the war, there were only three rifle factories in the colonies, and one of them was in Charlotte. The iron was obtained near High Shoals, and was blasted there. Then the barrel was shaped, bored carefully and rifled. The wooden stock extended clear to the end of the barrel, which was four feet in length. General Washington was presented with one of these Charlotte rifles in 1787, and he praised it very highly. The excellence of the weapon and the ability with which it was used played an important part in the war of the Revolution.

It had now become apparent to all observing people that a rupture of the ties binding the colonies to England was imminent. Preparations for war were being made and the Congresses of the people were the real governing bodies. Troops were being massed by America and England, but the Continental Congress yet asserted loyalty to the crown,

and Thomas Jefferson and his followers were endeavoring to effect a compromise with the mother country.

That North Carolina was among the foremost advocates of liberty is evidenced by a letter written to James Iredell by William Hooper, who was one of our delegates to the Continental Congress. He wrote, April 26, 1774: "With you I anticipate the important share the colonies must soon have in regulating the political balance. They are striding fast to independence, and ere long will build an empire upon the ruins of Great Britain; will adopt its Constitution purged of its impurities, and from an experience of its defects will guard against the evils which have wasted its vigor and brought it to an untimely end."

Governor Martin had lost all control of the government of the province and was preparing to go on board a British man-of-war. Rumors were rife of legislation by Parliament that would subdue the colonies. The best statesmen of England realized and admitted the injustice of the taxation of people by a governing body in which the people themselves had no representative. Yet it was apparent to all that the participation in Parliament of far distant America was a practical impossibility. The only logical alternatives were self-government with a mild form of protection or absolute independence. England declined to concede the first; America fought for the second.

During these troublous times, the Charlotte court house was the regular meeting place for the men of this section, and they often assembled to discuss news of interest. Royal government in North Carolina ended in June, 1775, and there was no semblance of royal authority in Mecklenburg for some time prior to that date. Several meetings were held among the leading citizens to decide what should be done. It was necessary to take some definite action, and to provide a system of government.

Thomas Polk was military commander of the county and was a leader among the people. He was authorized to call a meeting of delegates from each militia district whenever,

in his opinion, the proper time had come to act. The first of May, 1775, Thomas Polk, in accordance with these instructions, issued notice for each district to elect two delegates to an Assembly to be held in the court house in Charlotte on the nineteenth day of May.

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*Authority:*—Colonial Records, Burke's Speech on Conciliation, County Records, Moore's History, Johnson's Reminiscences and Hunter's Sketches. The item about the Rifle Factory in Charlotte was obtained from an article by W. H. Robarts in the *Washington Post*, June 16, 1901.

## CHAPTER IX.

### DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE; MAY 20, 1775.

**Manner of Election and Assembling of the Delegates—Excitement.  
—The Addresses and the Committee on Resolutions—News of the  
Battle of Lexington—Declaration Unanimously Adopted—Tempo-  
rary Form of Government Provided.**

Colonel Polk, by authority of the power previously vested in him, issued the notice for the election of two delegates by each of the nine militia districts in the county. There should, therefore, have been eighteen delegates to the convention. When it assembled on the 19th of May, however, so many prominent men were present that a dispute arose as to who should be termed delegates, and a compromise list containing the names of twenty-seven of the best citizens was finally accepted. Rev. Humphrey Hunter, in his memoirs, says he was present, being twenty years of age, and that half of the men in Mecklenburg county were in Charlotte that day.

Delegates and some other leading citizens obtained seats in the court house, while those who could not get in gathered in groups and discussed the issues among themselves. Organization was perfected by the election of a chairman in the person of Abraham Alexander, who had been a magistrate and chairman of the Inferior Court and a representative of Mecklenburg in the General Assembly. John McKnitt Alexander, who was also an honored magistrate, was made secretary.

Excitement was intense, as it became apparent that the proclamations of the King and the Governor made necessary some decisive action on the part of the people. Every one realized the importance of deliberate consideration before making a declaration that could never be recalled. Rumors





NEWS OF THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON.



were plentiful of offensive legislation by Parliament and of other efforts to subdue the colonists and to quench the spirit of freedom so rife among them. The colonies were preparing for war, and the time had come for all men to choose between England and America. Mecklenburg promptly decided between the two, and then she went further in the belief that if war must come, it should be fought for a purpose rather than for a grievance. A revolution was more to be desired than was an insurrection.

The addresses made to the convention demonstrated that all the delegates were searching for truth and eagerly desiring to know what was proper to be done. Among the leading speakers and advisers were Colonel William Kennon, a distinguished lawyer of Salisbury; Rev. Hezekiah J. Balch, an honored Presbyterian minister, and Dr. Ephraim Brevard. The chief topics considered were the alarming condition of the province which was being threatened yet was not arming, the restraint of provincial and export trade, unjust taxation and the necessity for a form of government.

While the convention was thus occupied and the spectators were intent upon the proceedings, a horseman galloped into town, shouting as he came, the news of the battle of Lexington. When he reached the court house, the people surrounded him and listened with amazement to the news in detail. Just one month before, the British troops had fired upon a crowd of Americans and more than a score of them were killed. Then the minute men responded and the British troops were forced to beat a precipitate retreat.

This news had a double effect on the delegates: the sacrifice of the patriots incited their sympathy, and the rout of the British encouraged them in making a bold stroke for liberty. Men who had cautioned against aggressive action now shouted for a positive declaration of independence. The last doubt was conquered and opposition was useless. A committee composed of Dr. Brevard, Colonel Kennon and

Rev. Hezekiah Balch, was appointed to draw up resolutions for the consideration of the convention.

During the absence of the committee, a new phase of the situation developed. This was occasioned by an inquiry as to how the delegates were to avoid the obligation of the oath of loyalty imposed upon them after the defeat of the Regulators. Some replied that the question did not deserve consideration, but others discussed it seriously. The consensus of opinion was that the king absolved the obligation of loyalty on the part of the Americans by declaring them in a state of insurrection and out of his protection.

The various suggestions and resolutions were carefully considered by the committee, and as a result, their report was not submitted until after midnight. It was read by the secretary and apparently gave entire satisfaction to the delegates, as they at once began clamoring for its immediate adoption. At 2 o'clock in the morning of May 20, the chairman put the question to a vote and the delegates and spectators shouted: "Aye, Aye." The twenty-seven delegates then went forward and signed the document as representatives of all the people. It was agreed that the Declaration should be proclaimed from the court house steps at noon, and at that time it was read by Colonel Polk in the presence of several thousand persons, who cheered the resolutions with great enthusiasm.

Captain James Jack was deputized to go to Philadelphia, where the Continental Congress was sitting, and give copies of the Declaration to the President of Congress and to each of North Carolina's representatives. When he arrived in Salisbury, he was induced by Colonel Kennon to tarry there in order to allow the Declaration to be read in court, which was in session. All who heard the reading expressed approval except two lawyers, Dunn and Booth, who called it treason and endeavored to prevent Captain Jack's intended trip to Philadelphia. They were foiled in the attempt and

were afterwards brought to Charlotte and punished for "unfaithfulness to the common cause." George Graham and Colonel J. Carruth were among the dozen men who went to Salisbury and arrested the lawyers.

Meanwhile, Captain Jack arrived in Philadelphia June 23, the day that General Washington left to take command of the Continental army. He was met that day by William Alexander, of Mecklenburg, who was there on business, and who in his old age often told that he met Captain Jack at that time and the Captain said he was there with copies of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence adopted May 20. Congress was then preparing the address to the king, which was agreed to July 8, and which declared loyalty to the king and repudiated the charge of a desire for independence. Hence it was not deemed prudent to publicly consider the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, and Captain Jack so reported the views of the President and our representatives.

June 30, Governor Martin inclosed in a letter to the Earl of Dartmouth a copy of the Cape Fear *Mercury* containing the Mecklenburg Resolves of May 31. The Governor wrote that the proceedings of that convention "surpasses all the horrid and treasonable publications that the inflammatory spirits of this continent have yet produced, and your Lordship may depend its authors and abettors will not escape my due notice, whenever my hands are sufficiently strengthened to attempt the recovery of the lost authority of government. A copy of these resolves, I am informed, were sent off by express to the Congress at Philadelphia as soon as they were passed in the committee." August 8, he issued a proclamation denouncing the action of the Mecklenburg people as "most infamous" and "treasonable."

The Declaration, as signed, was as follows :

"1st. *Resolved*, That whosoever directly or indirectly abets or in any way, form or manner, countenances the invasion of our rights as attempted by the Parliament of Great Britain, is an enemy to his country, to America, and the rights of man.

"2d. *Resolved*, That we, the citizens of Mecklenburg county, do hereby dissolve the political bands which have connected us with the mother country ; and absolve ourselves from the allegiance to the British Crown, abjuring all political connection with a nation that has wantonly trampled on our rights and liberties, and inhumanly shed the innocent blood of Americans at Lexington.

"3d. *Resolved*, That we do hereby declare ourselves a free and independent people, that we are and of right ought to be a sovereign and self-governing people under the power of God and the general Congress ; to the maintenance of which independence we solemnly pledge to each other our mutual co-operation, our lives, our fortunes and our most sacred honor.

"4th. *Resolved*, That we do hereby ordain and adopt as rules of conduct, all and each of our former laws, and the crown of Great Britain cannot be considered hereafter as holding any rights, privileges, or immunities amongst us.

"5th. *Resolved*, That all officers, both civil and military, in this county, be entitled to exercise the same powers and authorities as heretofore ; that every member of this delegation shall henceforth be a civil officer, and exercise the powers of a justice of the peace, issue process, hear and determine controversies according to law, preserve peace, union and harmony in the county, and use every exertion to spread the love of liberty and of country, until a more general and better organized system of government be established.

"6th. *Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be trans-

mitted by express to the President of the Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia, to be laid before that body.

EPHRAIM BREVARD.	CHARLES ALEXANDER,
HEZEKIAH J. BALCH,	ZACCHEUS WILSON,
JOHN PHIFER,	WAIGHTSTILL AVERY,
JAMES HARRIS,	BENJAMIN PATTON,
WILLIAM KENNON,	MATTHEW MCCLURE,
JOHN FORD,	NEIL MORRISON,
RICHARD BARRY,	ROBERT IRWIN,
HENRY DOWNS,	JOHN FLENNIGIN,
EZRA ALEXANDER,	DAVID REESE,
WILLIAM GRAHAM,	JOHN DAVIDSON,
JOHN QUEARY,	RICHARD HARRIS,
HEZEKIAH ALEXANDER,	THOMAS POLK,
ADAM ALEXANDER,	ABRAHAM ALEXANDER,
JOHN MCKNITT ALEXANDER."	

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*Authority:*—Same as Previous Chapter, Jones' Defense, Wheeler's History, Wheeler's Reminiscences, and Special Investigations in the Libraries of Charleston, S. C., and London, England.

## CHAPTER X.

### GOVERNMENT BY THE COMMITTEE. (1775 to 1776.)

**Adjourned Meeting Held May 31—Adopts Rules of Government Until  
“Laws are Provided by Congress”—Proceedings Supplementary  
to Previous Convention—The Two Official Declarations Compared.**

It will be observed that the Declaration did not make adequate provisions for the government of the county. In the convention of May 20, the all-absorbing topic of interest was the dissolution from Great Britain, and it remained for the next meeting to complete the arrangements for laws and officers. The adjourned meeting was held May 31, and twenty resolutions were then adopted. These resolutions are generally known as the “Resolves,” while those of May 20 are termed the “Declaration.”

The Declaration was divided into five different parts or resolutions. The first asserted that the cause of the Declaration of Independence was “the unchartered and dangerous invasion of our rights, as claimed by Great Britain.” The second dissolved the political bands connecting us with the mother country, while the third declared our independence. The fourth revoked all British authority and laws, but adopted the latter “as a rule of life,” and the fifth ordained that each delegate present should thereafter be a “Justice of the Peace in the character of a committeeman.”

This document and the minutes of the various meetings were in possession of John McKnitt Alexander, and were lost in the fire that destroyed his house in 1800. Several copies of the Declaration had been previously made: one which was sent to Dr. Hugh Williamson, the historian, was lost, but another sent to Judge Martin, which is known to have been in his possession in 1793, was preserved. Soon after the fire, John McKnitt Alexander re-wrote the Declaration from memory, and this production is almost word for

word like the Martin copy, thus showing Mr. Alexander's familiarity with the famous document. The proceedings of the convention of May 31 were printed in the *Cape Fear Mercury* in June, 1775, but the only known copy of the paper was borrowed from the British Colonial Office by Hon. Andrew Stevenson, the United States Minister to Great Britain, in the year 1837, and was not returned.

The Resolves were also published in June in the *South Carolina Gazette and Country Journal*, and copies of this paper are now preserved in Charleston and in London. These Resolves extend the actions of the convention of May 20, accepting as settled the new order of affairs following the separation from England. The Resolves were drawn up by Dr. Brevard, and signed by him as clerk by authority of the committee, and they superseded the fourth and fifth resolutions of May 20 and supplemented the Declaration of Independence by definitely defining the authority under which the county should be governed.

Independence having been declared eleven days previously, the Resolves begin with the reasons for the establishment of the forms of government therein contained. The first paragraph recites that all previous laws and commissions were established by the authority and consent of the king, and that they were suspended when the king declared the colonies out of his protection, and therefore could not be in effect unless re-established. Recognizing the legitimate authority of the Continental and Provincial Congresses, the laws and regulations following were enacted "for the internal government of this county, until laws shall be provided for us by the Congress."

It was then stipulated that each militia company should assemble at some convenient point and choose from their own number two men to serve as "Selectmen." A Selectman had jurisdiction over all matters of a civil nature wherein not more than twenty shillings was concerned, and two Selectmen sitting together could try cases involving as much as forty shillings. One constable was provided for

each of these officers, and authority was given them also to commit to confinement any person accused of petit larceny.

The eighteen Selectmen in the county were to meet four times a year to try all cases not in the jurisdiction of any of them separately, and to hear appeals. All money for rents and public and county taxes was to be paid into the hands of the chairman of the committee and "disbursed as required by public exigencies." The militia was advised to equip themselves with arms and accoutrements, and hold themselves in readiness to execute the commands of the general Congress or of the committee, and Thomas Polk and Dr. Joseph Kennedy were directed to purchase three hundred pounds of powder, six hundred pounds of lead and one thousand flints.

Thus it will be noted that the Convention of May 20 reinstated the old laws and officers with a few changes, and the Resolves allowed these officers to be elected by the people. The officers and laws, however, remained practically as before the Declaration, though it was expressly stated that the officers should "exercise their powers independent of the Crown of Great Britain."

Ample provision was made for the collection of debts. Persons owing so much as forty shillings could be prevented from leaving the county, and property could be levied on for the amount. Any Selectman could issue the warrant upon oath of the creditor. The government was strong and efficient, and there was but little opposition to it. When a person desired to leave the county, a certificate was given him stating that he was a friend to the "common cause."

The third Provincial Congress met in Hillsboro August 20, 1775, and Mecklenburg was represented by Thomas Polk, John Phifer, John McKnitt Alexander, Samuel Martin, Waightstill Avery and James Houston, the four first named having signed the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. At this session, a provisional government was instituted for the State, with Cornelius Harnett at the head, and the State was divided into six general militia districts. The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge was fought February

27 following, at which time the Patriots won a decisive victory over the Tories.

John Phifer, Robert Irwin and John McKnitt Alexander represented the county in the Congress that convened April 12, 1776, and they were instructed by the county committee to declare for independence. The Congress took this action, and was the first of the thirteen to so instruct her representatives in Philadelphia. The Constitution of North Carolina was adopted December 18, 1776, and this provided for committees of safety to govern each county. While the government of Mecklenburg was not modified, yet this action superseded the authority of the conventions held in May, 1775, and the laws then adopted "until laws shall be provided for us by the Congress."

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*Authority*:—Same as Previous Chapter, and an Original Copy of the *South Carolina Gazette and Country Journal* of June 13, 1775.

## CHAPTER XI.

### THE REVOLUTION. (1776 to 1780.)

**Organization of the State Military Forces—Prominent Parts Taken by Mecklenburg Men—Scoville and Tory Campaigns—The Continental Troops—Governor Caswell in Charlotte.**

The Provincial Congress of August, 1775, arranged for three classes of military troops in the State. First were two continental regiments under Colonels Moore and Howe, and in the first of which George Davidson and George Graham, of Mecklenburg, were officers. Six battalions of minute men were provided for, each battalion to consist of two companies of fifty men each, and Mecklenburg's levy was one hundred men. Of the county militia, the officers were Colonel Thomas Polk, Lieutenant-Colonel Adam Alexander, Major John Phifer and Second Major John Davidson. April, 1776, four additional continental regiments were organized, and Colonel Polk became commander of the Fourth regiment. At the same time the militia was reorganized on account of resignations and because some of the first officers were disloyal. The Mecklenburg officers were promoted after Colonel Polk left the militia, and George A. Alexander became Second Major. In November of 1775, a bill was passed authorizing a company of volunteer rangers in the county, and the officers were Captain Ezekiel Polk and Lieutenants Samuel Watson and William Polk.

Thomas Polk was one of the most active men in the State, and he and William Kennon were on the committee to prepare a temporary plan of government. Waightstill Avery was a member of the Provincial Council of thirteen, of which Cornelius Harnett was chairman. There were six district committees of safety, and Mecklenburg was represented in the Salisbury district committee by Hezekiah Alexander and Benjamin Patton. Then there were thirty-six county





committees of 21 members each, which met four times a year to take action against Tories, and to attend to questions of confiscation and other military affairs. Two companies of "light horse" were raised in the Salisbury district, and Martin Phifer was captain of the Second. May 11, 1776, the Provincial Council was superseded by the State Council of Safety, of which Hezekiah Alexander was a member.

In December, 1775, Colonels Rutherford, Graham, Caswell, Martin and Polk, with six hundred men, went to South Carolina and assisted General Richardson in his campaign against the Scovillites, a lawless band of men who defied all authority. This was called the Snow Camp Campaign on account of the snow falling so heavily during the march. A notable declaration made at this time was by the young ladies of Mecklenburg, who resolved to have nothing to do with any boys who had not volunteered for the march against the Scovillites.

In the summer of 1776, General Rutherford was engaged in a campaign against the Cherokee Indians. Several skirmishes were fought in the neighborhood of the present town of Franklin, and the Indians were reduced to quietude and signed a treaty of peace in the following May. On this expedition, Captain Charles Polk commanded a company of Mecklenburg militia which was accompanied by Dr. Ephraim Brevard. Colonel Adam Alexander, Lieutenant-Colonel John Phifer, Major John Davidson and Jesse A. Alexander also participated in the expedition. Waightstill Avery was active in the work of preparing a constitution and the laws for State government, and became Attorney General immediately after the constitution was adopted, December 18, 1776.

The North Carolina brigade of 9,400 men, was formed at Wilmington in July, 1776. William Davidson was at this time Lieutenant-Colonel of the Third regiment, William Polk was Major in the Ninth, and Charles Alexander was a Lieutenant in the Fourth regiment, of which Thomas Polk was Colonel. The brigade remained in North Carolina and

South Carolina until March, 1777, when it was ordered north and arrived in Philadelphia the first of July. The Mecklenburg troops were in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown, and in the latter, Major William Polk was slightly wounded. They spent the winter with General Washington at Valley Forge, and in May, 1778, they were consolidated into four regiments, numbering in all only 1,157 officers and men. Three thousand North Carolina militiamen were drafted in the continental service for nine months, and, with Washington's army, took part in the campaign in the winter of 1778-1779.

When the continental regiments were consolidated, Colonel Polk resigned his commission and returned to his home. He did not hold a position of prominence again until September 15, 1780, when he was appointed Commissary-General by General Green, who succeeded General Gates, in Charlotte, December 3, 1780, but in the meantime he was active in county affairs and in the defense of the home people. The notable services of Polk and of his sons are worthy of all honor. Captain Thomas Polk, Jr., was killed at Eutaw Springs while fighting bravely September 8, 1781. William Polk was wounded in the Scovilite campaign and also at Germantown, and Captain Charles Polk was active throughout the war. During Colonel Polk's service as commissary for General Greene's army, money was scarce and Colonel Polk expended all his private funds in the public cause, part of it, however, being afterwards returned to him.

In February, 1779, a Tory insurrection gained considerable strength in Tryon county, and troops were collected to suppress it. David Wilson commanded a company of Mecklenburg "light horse" in this campaign, which was in every way successful. May 1, a levy for clothing for the continental troops was made, and this county was called upon to supply 72 hats, 144 pairs of shoes and stockings, 304 yards of linen and 144 yards of woolen or double-woven cloth.

The term of service of nearly all the North Carolina troops expired in April, 1779, and the soldiers returned to

their homes. The General Assembly directed the Governor to draft 2,000 of the militia, most of whom were to be sent to the defense of Charleston. Governor Caswell and the State Council came to Charlotte April 10, and here reviewed the soldiers who were to go to Charleston, and the next day, General Butler, with 700 troops, began the march. While here the Governor commissioned William R. Davie a lieutenant in the light horse company, of which William Barnett was captain.

During these trying times, the men of Mecklenburg were nobly doing the duty of true patriots. This county sent soldiers to fight under Washington, to help South Carolina and Georgia, to drive back the Indians and to suppress insurrections; and when the task of defending their homes devolved upon them, they put up a fight that is one of the noblest in history. While the men were doing these things, the women were no less zealous in their patriotism. They made clothes for the soldiers, nursed the sick and wounded and encouraged the feeble-minded by their sacrifices and their courage.

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*Authority*:—Colonial Records, Personal Correspondence, Eggleston's History of the United States, and Johnson's Reminiscences of the Revolution.

had done much fighting with a small band of volunteers. Cornwallis left Waxhaw September 24, and about 11 o'clock September 26, his advance guard entered Charlotte, approaching from the south by Trade street.

Davie and Graham had made ample provision for a strong resistance, and it is superfluous to mention the bravery of these patriots who resisted so gloriously a victorious army outnumbering them 15 to 1. Major Graham was in command of a company that advanced along East Trade street, protected by the houses and fences and trees on each side. Another company was dismounted and placed behind the stone wall surrounding the space underneath the court house, while the others were held in reserve. Tarleton's cavalry, under the immediate command of Major Hanger, formed in line within three hundred yards of the court house, and were supported by solid ranks of infantry. The order to charge was given and obeyed, and then the Americans, who had kept quiet, calmly delivered a galling fire which threw the attacking party into such confusion that they turned and galloped back in disorder. Two other charges were similarly repulsed, but meanwhile the British infantry had steadily advanced, and it became apparent that the work of the day was about completed, and the retreat was begun. The noble defenders were vigorously pursued, but under cover of nightfall, succeeded in avoiding capture. Lieutenant George Locke and four privates were killed, and Major Joseph Graham and five privates were wounded, and the enemy lost 45 in killed and wounded.

Cornwallis remained in Charlotte sixteen days, during which time his position fully justified him in naming the town "The Hornets' Nest." As an illustration of the respect he had for his enemies, he sent Major Doyle with 450 cavalry and forty wagons on a foraging expedition, October 3. The country people saw them passing gaily along the road, and Captain James Thompson and Captain George Graham, with about a dozen armed men, followed them to McIntyre's farm. Here the foragers began loading the

wagons with the fat of the land; the dogs were set to chasing chickens, a bee hive was turned over and the bees chased the soldiers, and altogether it made a merry scene. A red faced captain was standing on the doorsteps laughing boisterously, when one of the men in ambush said to his companions, "I can't wait any longer; let every one pick his man; the captain is mine." At the fusillade that followed, the British were confused and ran madly about the yard looking for a place of refuge from what appeared to be a complete ambuscade. Major Doyle hurried up and the troops at once set out toward Charlotte; patriots all along the road took up the fight, and the flight was precipitate and disorderly until Charlotte was reached.

October 5, 1780, General Sumner retreated across the Yadkin, leaving the enemy in force in this county. Two days later, the Board of War wrote to Governor Nash that Josiah Martin, who called himself Governor of North Carolina, was in Charlotte signing official papers and offering inducements to Tories. The battle of King's Mountain was fought October 7. Colonel Patrick Ferguson, an able and a favorite officer of Lord Cornwallis, had been sent out some time before to head off the Whigs, who were retreating toward the mountains, and his command, which originally consisted of 110 regulars and about the same number of Tories, included a full thousand men at the time of the battle. Colonels Campbell, Shelby, Hambright, Sevier, Winston, McDowell, Cleveland and Williams combined and raised a force to "catch Ferguson," who was openly boasting of things he was going to do. These officers, with an army nearly as large as Ferguson's, pursued him and came upon him on King's Mountain. The fighting began about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and in little more than an hour, Ferguson was killed and all his men killed, wounded or captured.

These events so affected Lord Cornwallis that he resolved to leave this section, and on the twelfth day of October, he departed from Charlotte, leaving behind much plunder that

he was unable or unwilling to carry with him. Though he had been very unwelcome, he was not even allowed to depart in peace, for General Davidson, who had been at Camp McKnitt Alexander, in the northern part of the county, began to impede his progress, and he was ably assisted by Davie, Graham and others.

General Rutherford was released from prison about this time, and he at once raised three companies of dragoons and two hundred cavalry. Assisted by Colonel Robert Irwin and Major Joseph Graham, he marched toward Wilmington, defeated the Tories at Raft swamp and another body near Wilmington, and Colonel Gagney near Lake Waccamaw. In December, Major Joseph Graham enlisted fifty riflemen, captured the British guard at Hart's Mill, was with Lee at Pyle's hacking match and Clapp's mine, and with Colonel Washington at Whitsell's mill. February 1, 1781, the Grahams and the Polks were with General Davidson when he, with three hundred men, intercepted Cornwallis at Cowan's Ford, where the Americans were defeated and General Davidson was killed. Richard Barry, David Wilson and other soldiers took the body of the dead general to the home of Samuel Wilson, Sr., where it was prepared for burial and interred by torchlight in the Hopewell cemetery.

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*Authority:*—Same as Previous Chapter, Wheeler's History and Hunter's Sketches.

## CHAPTER XIII.

CLOSE OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. (1776 to 1800.)

War Times and County Affairs—Lawyers and Legislative Proceedings—Monetary System—Public Buildings and Industries—Andrew Jackson and James Knox Polk Born in Mecklenburg.—George Washington in Charlotte.

The transition of the power of government from the king to the people occasioned no marked change except in the authority. There was no revolution in laws and officers in Mecklenburg, but affairs remained much as they were before the Declaration of Independence. People in this county were fortunate from the first in having officers of their own choosing, it being customary for several good men to be suggested to the Royal Governor for his selection for each office.

During the war, confiscation commissioners were appointed at different points in the county, their duty being to seize any property of Royalists and to watch suspected parties. The old county court, composed of the justices of the county, met four times each year to try appeals and cases out of the jurisdiction of themselves separately. It was their duty also to elect the sheriff and register and clerk of the court. Another department of the government was the commissioners for the poor. They employed a man as superintendent to look after the destitute, and in 1872, he reported his expenses for the year at \$80.

Counties were then divided into sections called militia districts. There was a captain of the militia, a tax lister and two magistrates in each one; taxes were listed during the last six "working days" of July. In 1775, there were only nine of these districts, but the number was increased to seventeen in 1777, and to nineteen in 1784, at which number it remained to the close of the century.

Mecklenburg did not lack for lawyers in the early days. In 1774, when Charlotte contained less than 200 inhabitants, there were five local lawyers, and at every court several from other counties were present. Waightstill Avery came about 1767, and he was the leading lawyer during the Revolution and for some time afterwards. At the court held in October, 1778, Spruce McKay presented a license to practice law, signed by Judges Samuel Spencer and Samuel Ashe. Wm. R. Davie was the attorney for the State at the October term, 1779, and in 1783, Adlai Osborne was county attorney, and his pay was £10 for every court attended. Within the last quarter of the century, about thirty lawyers were licensed to practice in the Mecklenburg court, but not more than ten or twelve lived in the county at any one time.

Fees to lawyers were not different from what they now are. In 1764, Richard Henderson was paid £34 for prosecuting Berry for the murder of Hugh Irwin. November 12, 1773, Wm. Smith received £7 for services as administrator of an estate. In 1794, Daniel Brown was paid two guineas for prosecuting two suits for John Bigham in the Lancaster, S. C., court, and in 1796, Wm. J. Alexander received £4 from Allen Reed for fees in a suit in chancery.

Legislatures were much occupied during this period with local laws. In 1779, the Rocky river fish law was enacted, prohibiting obstructions in the river which had been built to catch the fish, and in 1786, several other rivers were included in the provisions of the act. In 1779, the county was divided into two military divisions on account "of Charlotte being in an uncentral position and the necessity for all men to attend court-martials and other military duties." When water overflowed as a result of a mill dam, and damaged land, the law provided that the land owner should give ten days' notice and make application to the county court to order the sheriff to make an investigation and assess the amount of damages to be paid by the mill owner.

Until the United States monetary system was organized, there was great inconvenience caused by the money in circu-

lation. Paper money was subjected to all manner of fluctuations during the war times, and was not worth its face value in "solid money" at any time. Gold and currency were used here with the stamp of North Carolina, South Carolina, Continental, Spanish and English, and exchange was consequently very annoying. The amount in circulation was also insufficient, and before and after the war, efforts were made to have certain commodities made legal tender for debts and taxes, but the plan did not meet with general approval.

The permanent location of the capital of the county in Charlotte, in 1774, was the first impetus to progress that the town received. The second incentive was the incorporation of Liberty Hall Academy in 1777. These events contributed much to the growth of Charlotte, causing people to purchase lots and move to the village for purposes of trade and to enjoy the educational advantages not to be obtained in the country.

Public buildings in the town in 1775 consisted of a jail, court house and stocks. In the county charges of 1774, fifty pounds was taxed for a jail, and in the next year an equal amount was again expended on the buildings. The court house, which was built in 1767, was repaired in 1773 and again in 1774. In July, 1778, the county court ordered Sheriff Thomas Harris to employ workmen to make such "alterations and repairs within the court house as he may think proper in order to render the same more convenient for lawyers and other officers of court to execute their respective duties without interruption or confusion."

In October, 1779, Thomas Polk and Duncan Ochiltree were appointed commissioners to "impale or otherwise inclose the under part of the court house" in order to make it agreeable as an exchange, and a stone wall was accordingly built around it. The court house was so damaged at the time of the British invasion and occupation of 1780 and 1781, that court was held in Joseph Nicholson's house until April of 1782.

In September, 1786, the total population of Charlotte was 276. Of these 123, or nearly one-half, were negroes; of the remaining 153 white people, 69 were females and 84 were males. The population of the entire county at this time was about 9,000, which increased to 19,439 by the close of the century. The value of town property in 1796 was returned as \$4,264. In 1795, the number of acres of land listed for taxation was 211,533, and in 1797, it was 273,284. The variance in the figures is accounted for by the failure of some to list their property.

There was no United States postoffice in Charlotte before 1792, in which year the local officers for the first time took the oath of allegiance to the Federal government. Edward Waine and Ephraim B. Davidson held the position as postmaster before 1800.

The only industries in Charlotte at the close of this period were a flour mill, saw mill and a blacksmith shop. Besides these, however, might be mentioned a number of taverns, a maker of rifles, and the merchants, tailors, weavers and hatters. Jeremiah McCafferty opened a store in Charlotte as early as 1771, and three others were doing business prior to the Revolution. The firm of Ochiltree, Martin & Co. were merchandising as late as 1780, and in 1783, the same firm was doing business under the name of Ochiltree & Polk, and there were many other traders in the town and county.

Andrew Jackson, seventh President of the United States, was born in the southeastern part of Mecklenburg; six miles from the present town of Waxhaw, in what is now Union county, March 15, 1767, and soon after his birth, his widowed mother moved with her children into South Carolina. In the records of the October term of the county court in 1787, is this entry:

"W. Copples, Andrew Jackson and Alexander McGinty, Esquires, come into Court and produce License from the Honorable, the Judges of the Superior Court of Law and Equity, authorizing them to practice as Attorneys in the sev-

eral County Courts within this State, and having taken the oath of office, ordered that they be admitted accordingly."

November 2, 1795, James Knox Polk, eleventh President of the United States, was born between Hopewell and Huntersville, at the home of his mother's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Knox. His father, Samuel Polk, was a son of Ezekiel Polk, and in 1806, when James Knox Polk was eleven years of age, moved with his family to Tennessee.

George Washington was in Charlotte May 25, 1791, being on a tour through the South. He dined with Gen. Polk with a party of the most prominent citizens of the county, who had been invited to meet the distinguished guest.

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*Authority:*—Colonial and County Records. The birthplace of Jackson was decided definitely by Parton's Biography, Appleton's Encyclopedia, the Land Records and Col. S. H. Walkup's Publication.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### EDUCATION BEFORE 1800.

**First Teachers and Schools in Mecklenburg—Qualifications of Teachers and Nature of Instruction—Grammar and Classical Schools.—Queen's College, Queen's Museum and Liberty Hall.**

The first school teachers in Mecklenburg of whom there are any records, were at their work in 1762, about the time the county was established. So that, properly, the history of education in Mecklenburg begins with the history of Mecklenburg itself. February 9, 1762, Charles Moore, who lived in the lower part of the county, which is now in South Carolina, gave to Andrew Armon a receipt for four pounds and fifteen shillings in full payment of a note from his father for "schooling." As this teacher was practicing his vocation in a part of the county then most thinly settled, it is within the bounds of proper inference to say there must have been teachers before that time in the neighborhoods of Rocky river, Sugar creek, Steele creek, and Providence. Moses Ferguson taught near where the Barringers lived, and later at Steele creek before 1762, and he was one of the teachers mentioned by Governor Dobbs in 1755 as being employed by a number of Irish Protestant families who had banded together in order to have their children educated.

There were but few school houses in the county before the Revolution, it being the custom for the teachers to work at their homes or at the homes of the patrons. By 1775, however, there were school buildings in Charlotte and at Rocky river, Clear creek, Sugar and Steele creeks, Providence, Hopewell, Beatty's ford and one between Providence and the present town of Monroe. The Sugar creek grammar school was one of the most noted in this section. Some teachers would teach in one community a few months, and then move to another, and in this way were engaged in their



Received from Mr James Alexander this 17<sup>th</sup> of July  
the sum of sixteen Pounds 5<sup>s</sup> Currency at the rate of  
forty eight Shillings for a ten Pounds Bill being in part  
payment for a Years Tuition of his Brother Joseph  
Alexander in Queen's Museum, Charlotte, I say recd  
W<sup>m</sup> M

J<sup>n</sup> Alexander

RECEIPT FOR TUITION IN QUEEN'S MUSEUM.

work during the whole year. They did not depend for their living entirely upon tuition, as records are plentiful of teachers "crying sales" and "trading horses."

Writing, reading, spelling and arithmetic were the subjects taught in these first schools. The Bible was often used as the text book for reading, but considerable difficulty was encountered in securing a sufficient number of arithmetics. The teacher, of course, possessed one, and he or the pupils would copy portions of it for the use of the school. Some books were kept for sale by the merchants in Mecklenburg, but these were of a religious character, and the text books were usually purchased in Charleston and brought back by the traders.

People of those days had practical ideas about everything. It was deemed important that children be taught the rudiments of education, and some were sent north to college, but the things most highly considered were religious and industrial training. Parents believed it essential that their children be given instruction in the Bible, Catechism and religious doctrines, and that each one be trained in some trade. Provisions were made by wills and otherwise for a child to be given a certain amount of "schooling" and to be bound to some man who would agree to instruct him in "the art and mystery of weaving," "tailoring" or any of the similar industries. It was customary for all orphans to be bound in this way until they became twenty-one years of age, and thus each one was fitted to earn an independent living.

There are many records of bills, charges against estates and receipts for "schooling" prior to the Revolutionary war. In September, 1775, John Patterson, schoolmaster, circulated articles of agreement to teach a school in the northern part of the county. The contract stipulated that the master should "well and truly teach, according to custom, spelling, reading, writing and arithmetic," and that the patrons should "cut and lay convenient to the school house a sufficiency of firewood for the year." The school opened October 5, 1775, and continued six months, the teacher's remuneration

neration being "equivalent to six months' wages with board and lodging." Teachers were paid the same wages as common hired men.

After the Revolution there were several popular schools in the county. Dr. McCorkle taught at Thyatira, Dr. Robinson at Poplar Tent, Dr. Wilson at Rocky river, Caldwell at Sugar creek and James Walters at Providence. Besides these men, who were located permanently in their respective neighborhoods, there were many traveling teachers. In 1773, Kerns Henderson taught the two children of Joseph Sample at a "musick school." Elizabeth Cummins, who taught a four months' school in the county in 1774, was Mecklenburg's first lady teacher. Clío's Nursery and Science Hall were taught by Rev. James Hall, the pastor of Fourth creek, Concord and Bethany.

Elijah Alexander taught a school at his home in 1791, and boarded a number of "scholars." In some of the best schools by this date, geography and Latin were added to the usual course of instruction. As early as 1787, John McKemey Wilson was at school away from home, and in 1790, Thomas Polk spoke of James Polk as "soon to leave for Williamsburg for school." Boarding schools in the county were rare, but it was not uncommon by the close of the century for boys to be away from home attending school.

December 5, 1770, Governor Tryon suggested to the Assembly the wisdom of establishing in the back country a school for "higher learning," and the idea met with the prompt approval of the representatives. A committee was appointed to consider the matter, and the chairman, Edmund Fanning, soon presented a bill establishing and endowing Queen's College, in Charlotte, and it was enacted and approved by the Governor January 15, 1771. The board of trustees included the most distinguished men in the county, and they met March 1, 1771, and elected Edmund Fanning president, and three tutors, of whom Rev. Joseph Alexander was one; and Thomas Polk was elected treasurer. This institution began with favorable indications of success, but it





September the 22 1777.  
The salary of Samuel Broughell Deane, is  
imputed to me. For teaching his children at school,  
L<sup>o</sup> 10 = 2  
Done before me Abraham Barnard

BILL FOR TEACHING, 1771.

was hampered by the dissensions in the county, caused by the court house controversy, land troubles and Regulators. In June, 1773, Governor Martin issued a proclamation giving notice that the king had disallowed the charter. The only apparent reason was that the college, being in a Presbyterian stronghold, would tend to encourage dissenters from the established Church of England. The school continued for some time without a charter, though the patronage was not encouraging.

In 1773, Martin Phifer endeavored to get a new charter for the Charlotte school under the title of Queen's Museum. Though his effort was unsuccessful, the people of the town in the next year began a school under that name as successor to Queen's College, which had been abandoned. Thomas Polk, Abraham Alexander and others, persevered in the face of repeated disaster in their desire to have a high grade school in Charlotte. John McEwen was given a diploma by Queen's Museum in 1776, but about that time the name was again changed, this time to Liberty Hall Academy.

Liberty Hall Academy was incorporated in 1777, and Robert Brownfield, of Mecklenburg, was president for the first year. He was succeeded by Dr. McWhorter, of New Jersey, who held the office until the institution was closed in 1780 on account of Cornwallis' invasion. It enjoyed great prosperity during the first years of its existence, but the war impeded its progress until finally it was forced to suspend.

In 1760, Crowfield Academy was established about two and a half miles northeast of the present site of Davidson College. It continued in great usefulness until the British invasion in 1780, during which time instruction was given to many men who afterwards became prominent.

These first schools of "higher learning" included Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Philosophy and Theology in their course of instruction, in addition to that of the common schools. They were supported by tuition, donations, a tax on liquor, and occasionally lotteries were allowed to assist them. Girls did not attend them, as the necessity for their education equal with boys was not then manifest, and all the instruction they

received was merely enough to equip them to study the Bible and Catechism.

The more prominent citizens of these times possessed considerable libraries, but among the poorer classes books were scarce. At the close of the eighteenth century, a few books of a substantial character were owned by almost every family. The Bible was the most popular, and the others generally used were the Westminster Confession among the Presbyterians, Luther's Bible and Catechism among the Germans, and the Book of Common Prayer among the few adherents of the Established Church. The Almanac was about the only current literature obtainable, except in rare instances, when the leading men would go to Charleston to trade and would bring back some newspapers.

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*Authority:*—County Records, Bills, Receipts, Personal Accounts, Raper's Church and Private School History, and Charles Lee Smith's History of Education in North Carolina issued by the Federal Government in 1888.

## CHAPTER XV.

### RELIGION AND CHURCHES FROM 1748 TO 1800.

**Presbyterians Most Numerous in the Early Times—Rev. Hugh McAden, Rev. John Thompson and Rev. Alexander Craighead the First Preachers—Seven Noted Churches and Some of Their Customs.**

It has been already stated that the two principal classes of the people who settled Mecklenburg were the Germans and the Scotch-Irish. The Germans were Lutherans and German Reform in their religious beliefs, while the Scotch-Irish, who were their superiors in numbers, were Presbyterians. In 1755, when Governor Dobbs made his visit to this section of the province, he reported that these Scotch-Irish had joined in bands of twenty or more families in order to have teachers and preachers of their own choosing.

A deed recorded in 1765 mentions the "old meeting house" on Rocky river, which was probably built in 1758, as Dobbs would no doubt have recorded the fact had there been a church in the county at the time of his visit. In 1755, however, the congregations of Rocky river and Sugar creek petitioned the New York Synod for a preacher, but none was sent at that time. Rev. John Thompson was preaching in the county in 1752.

In October and November of 1755, Rev. Hugh McAden made a missionary journey through the county, and reported that he preached to "some pretty serious and judicious people," and that "all had great desire for the Gospel and took much interest in spiritual things." He preached at the homes of Moses Alexander, Major Harris, David Caldwell, James Alexander, and in the Waxhaw settlements. November 23, he was at the church "five miles from Henry White's," and this was the first church ever used in the county.

Rev. Alexander Craighead, of Augusta county, Va., ac-

cepted the call to the Rocky river and Sugar creek congregations in 1759, and at this time both the congregations had churches. When McAden visited the county he found the Presbyterians divided into two parties, one of which was called the "New Side" and favored the revivalist practices of Whitfield, while the "Old Side" was opposed to them. Craighead was a revivalist and a follower of Whitfield, and a majority were in his favor, but after his death, in 1766, the "New Side" lost prestige and never regained it except for a brief while in 1800, when the great revival swept over this part of the State.

The career of this first minister is full of interest. That he was independent and fearless in thought and action is evidenced by his withdrawal from the Philadelphia Synod in 1741, at which time he was accused of "irregularities" in his teachings, and he in turn accused his accusers of coldness, formality and Pharisaism. He was courageous and felt strongly, but he controlled his feelings within the bounds of reason and order. The Scotch-Irish were loyal to the government, but demanded the right to choose their own religious instructors, believing the prevention of it meant destruction of religious liberty.

The years intervening between 1755 and 1770 may be termed the formative period of the county, in religious affairs as in all others. The unsettled conditions, the boundary dispute, the hostility of the Indians and the fierce struggle for existence in a country with no roads, markets far away and little or no currency, makes it wonderful that even a little was accomplished in the higher walks of life. The settlers of Sugar creek selected a site for a common burial place in 1763, and the oldest marked grave in that hallowed spot bears the date of that year.

Before 1770, there were Presbyterians, Lutherans, German Calvinists, a few Baptists, and some extreme followers of Whitfield known as "New Lights," in Mecklenburg county. Presbyterians and Germans alone had established churches by that time. The churches at Steele creek, Hopewell. Center, Sugar creek, Rocky river, Poplar Tent, New

Providence, Coldwater, the German churches west of the Catawba and the Clear creek church had all assumed a permanent place in our local history and had begun the important part they afterwards accomplished in the development of the county.

With the more perfect organization of the Presbyterian churches and the settlement here of several preachers of that faith who claimed equal authority with ministers of the Established church, the question of removing the restrictions which prevented Presbyterian ministers from performing the marriage ceremony, began to be agitated. A justice of the peace was permitted to perform the ceremony provided a license had been obtained from the clerk of the court, for which a fee of twenty shillings was charged. In January, 1771, the Assembly enacted a law, introduced by Edmund Fanning at the instigation of Thomas Polk, which allowed Presbyterian ministers to solemnize the rites of marriage by publication in their assemblies or by license.

After the coming of Rev. Joseph Alexander to Sugar creek, in 1767, the churches in this county made great progress for several years. This was due to the more frequent preaching, the cessation of Indian outrages, and the end of the old religious controversy. The churches did not enjoy peace even after this, for a new dissension arose over the discussions as to whether or not it was right to sing anything but the Psalms in the churches. Craighead had used no other hymns, and Rev. Joseph Alexander followed in his footsteps, and Rev. H. J. Balch did not raise the question in his day. The question was opened by the advent of Revs. James McRee, Thomas H. McCaule and Robert Archibald, who desired to use Watt's hymns. The agitators finally won, but a new church was formed by some whose consciences would not allow them to sing anything except "inspired psalmody."

During the year 1770, those members of Providence church who lived near Clear creek established a church more convenient to their neighborhood, and united with Providence in securing the services of a pastor. Revs. Reese,

McRee, Archibald and Barr ministered to them until 1792, when Rev. James Wallis became their pastor and served the churches until his death in 1819. Sardis church was formed about 1794 by some members of Providence and Clear creek who were dissatisfied with the introduction of Watt's hymns by Rev. Wallis. Lower Steele creek church was organized in 1794 by Rev. William Blacksocks, of the faith of Associate Reformed Presbyterians.

During the war, especially in 1780 and 1781, the churches were greatly disturbed. After peace was declared, the doctrines of the French skeptics began to be discussed. A society composed of prominent church members was formed for the purpose of considering the new theories, and some men openly avowed disbelief in all things. For ten years the power of the society grew, and the dissensions attracted much attention, but the whole movement was combatted from the very first by all the ministers. Efforts to check the growth of the skepticism were unavailing, and the churches suffered much until the great revival at Providence in 1802, when many of the infidels were converted.

Growth of the churches was attended with many other difficulties, as the worldly-minded were as plentiful then as at any time. Dancing, horse racing, gambling, card playing, drunkenness and neglect of public worship were the sins that enticed the church members. Then there were always some differences of belief. Rev. Robert Archibald was suspended from the ministry in 1794 because he preached the doctrine of universal salvation. In 1779, Little Steele creek church was formed by members who left Lower Steele creek church because of a dispute as to whether it was necessary to fast the day before the administration of the Lord's Supper. Regeneration, baptism, total depravity, original sin, and free moral agency were also discussed. Considering all these difficulties, it is wonderful that the churches made any progress. Their final victory can only be accounted for by the fact that they stood as the representatives of that higher spiritual life without which society can not long exist.

One method used to raise money for church purposes was

the renting of pews. A member was usually appointed every quarter to collect these rents. Thirty-two shillings a year was charged for one seat or pew, but free seats of some kind were provided for those who could not afford to pay. Before 1800, the Presbyterian church had more strength than all other churches in the county combined. The Methodists built their first "meeting house" just before the close of the century, and it is yet Harrison M. E. church, near where the Charlotte and Lancaster, S. C., road crosses the State line. James Jonathan and Daniel Mills were the founders of this organization.

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*Authority:*—Personal Accounts, County Records, Pamphlets and Church Records.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### DOCTORS AND MEDICINES BEFORE 1800.

**First Physicians in the County and the Leading Ones of the Period.  
—Methods of Practice and the Medicines Used—Prevalence of  
Witchcraft and Its Treatment.**

When Mecklenburg county was formed, it is doubtful whether there was a resident doctor in the county, except such as modern science would regard as nurses. The first regular physician of whom there is any record of his practicing in Mecklenburg was Dr. John Newman Oglethorpe, of Rowan, in 1764. In 1766, the administrator of Valentine Dellinger reported that he had paid a "Doctor Cantzon" twelve shillings. Dellinger lived in what is now Lincoln county.

The first resident physician and the first man of medical education who practiced his profession in the present county of Mecklenburg was Dr. Joseph Kennedy. A record of this physician's labors bears the date of 1766, but it is likely that he practiced a few years earlier than that date. Dr. Kennedy died in 1778. The next resident physician was Dr. Ephraim Brevard, who certainly began the practice of his profession as early as 1772, when he began to have accounts against several estates for "medicine and visits."

In 1773 and 1774, "Dr. Newman" practiced in the Hopewell section of the county. He probably lived in Rowan. In 1777, Dr. Felix Pitt was a resident physician. In his account with William Barnett, in 1778, such items as a "visit" at eight shillings, a "large blister Plaister" at fifteen shillings, "seven Aperient powders" at seventeen and one-half shillings, and "a Pectoral Mixture" at one pound two and one-half shillings, were charged.

In 1780, Dr. Thomas Henderson, who was a Mecklenburg school teacher in 1774, appeared in the records as a physician. For nearly thirty-six years afterwards he seems to

have been the leading physician in this county, his practice extending to every part of it. About the same time Dr. Henderson began to practice in Charlotte, Dr. James R. Alexander began to practice at Hopewell. When Isaac Alexander's services as teacher in Queen's Museum terminated in the Fall of 1776, he began the study of medicine, but it was not until 1782 that he began active practice. When Dr. Ephraim Brevard's property was sold at public sale in 1782, Dr. Isaac Alexander, Dr. Thomas Henderson, Dr. James R. Alexander and a Dr. Dysart are noted as purchasers of "physic." It is more than likely that they were the only resident physicians in this county at that time.

In 1780, when the smallpox was epidemic in the county, having been brought here by the British and the American armies, Dr. James Alexander vaccinated many of the people of his section. In one family he vaccinated ten persons, charging one pound currency for each "innoculation"—probably depreciated continental currency. While this epidemic was prevailing, Catherine Blackwelder, of Cabarrus, acted as a nurse and no doubt saved many lives by her care and self-sacrifice. Some of those who were the recipients of her attentions paid her, but the money was the almost worthless continental currency of the time, so that she never received any adequate compensation for her heroic efforts to save the lives of her friends and neighbors. Henry Probst, of Cabarrus, in 1789, rendered an account against one of his neighbors for "four fisicks and rideing." He was not a physician, but no doubt had some knowledge of medicine.

It is a fact not now generally known that some of the early settlers in this section regarded many diseases as directly due to the power and influence of witches. These ideas especially prevailed among the ignorant of all nationalities. However, there is no record in this county from which it could be inferred that anyone was ever punished for witchcraft, witches generally being regarded here as spirits of evil influence who made their journeys at night and brought their baneful influence to bear on horses, cattle, and human beings. There were those in every neighborhood

who professed to be able to drive away witches or relieve those who had been put under their influence. The methods of these so-called "witch doctors" were often ludicrous. For instance, children who were said to be "bewitched" were subjected to a treatment which consisted in placing a ladder on end against a building and passing the bodies of the children up through the successive rungs of the ladder after the fashion of weaving, then repeating the process from top to bottom.

There are traditional instances which relate how the "witch doctors" tried to cure cases of serious sickness by means of methods which border on those now practiced by the faith healers. In the particular cases referred to, the "witch doctors" began their treatment by reconciling any family differences with neighbors, even to the extent of returning all borrowed property, after which the treatment consisted of "words" or "prayers," sometimes accompanied with anointing the parts of the body which seemed to be the seat of the "witches" with concoctions, the making and compounding of which was a secret to all except those initiated. Even after 1800, they who professed to cure the evils brought on human beings by witches were found in many parts of the original territory of Mecklenburg.

Investigation discloses the fact that women in rare instances were regarded as possessing the power of witches. In such cases they were shunned by the superstitious. Men could teach women how to cure certain diseases attributed to the power of the witches, but men could not initiate men into the mysteries of such an art, that being only possible to a woman. It is not known how the first man acquired the power which enabled him to drive away witches or to relieve the sufferings supposed to be due to their influence.

By the year 1790, three other physicians had begun to practice in this county. They were William Strain, who lived in what is now Cabarrus, and Alexander Cummins, who resided somewhere in the northern part of the county, and Thomas Donnell. A year or two later, Dr. Charles Harris began the practice of his profession. He lived in what is

now Cabarrus. Dr. Harris was an educated man, and with Dr. Henderson and Dr. Alexander, seems to have enjoyed a large practice.

Between 1790 and 1800, the other Mecklenburg physicians were Frederick Croner, William Morrison, Joseph McKnitt Alexander, and Cyrus Alexander. Dr. Joseph Ramsey and Dr. John Sibley, both of Rowan, practiced in parts of the county during this period, as well as Dr. Samuel C. Dunlap, of Lancaster county, South Carolina, and Dr. William Kerr, of York county, in the same State.

Of all these men, Dr. Croner, who lived in Charlotte, seems to have taken most pains to display his knowledge of Latin. His accounts were full of such phrases as *per noctem* and *eodem die*, among other peculiarities. All these doctors put great confidence in a drug known as "cooling powders," as well as "blisters," "sulphur," "magnesia," "bark," "unction" and "cream tartar."

During this period there were many women in various parts of the county who had some skill in the treatment of diseases, especially of a disease which the people called "white swelling." Several bills and receipts remain, all signed by women, for services in treating this affection.

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*Authority*:—County Records, Official Papers, Personal Correspondence, Family Traditions and Business Accounts.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### SLAVERY BEFORE 1800.

**Introduction of the System Was Slow—Conditions of Labor—No One Owned More Than a Dozen Slaves—Prices, Habits and Ability of the Negroes—Only a Few Were Skilled Laborers.**

The first immigrants to Mecklenburg brought with them but few slaves. Those settlers who came from Pennsylvania and Maryland were searching for a new and freer land wherein to dwell, and in the uncertainty of their ultimate location, it is improbable that they were encumbered with slaves, who would then and for some time afterwards have been more trouble than their services would justify. Those who came from Virginia brought a few slaves; they knew where they were going, were acquainted with the nature of the country and did not have to move so far as those from the North.

Another reason why the introduction of slavery into the county was so slow, was that most of the settlers were poor people and could not afford servants. They were searching for a region where they could live by their own industry without fear of tyrannical and arbitrary interference. The work of pioneers was not suited to the slaves, and the unsettled condition of the country offered too many inducements to them to run away. After government was firmly established and these first settlers had achieved some success in worldly riches, the growth of slavery was steady.

It was so easy in those days to live independently that hired labor of every kind was scarce. Each man built his little cabin and began work for himself. Game was plentiful, and not much industry was necessary for obtaining necessities of life. Hence it was very difficult to hire anyone, and each farmer had to do his own work until he could by diligence and economy save enough to buy a slave. Governor Dobbs said that from 1750 to 1764, "the number of laborers and

artificers in comparison with the number of planters was small." Laborers were paid from three to six shillings a day for work which was much less than a day's work in England, so the price of labor in Mecklenburg was higher than in the mother country.

When a farmer accumulated enough money to buy a slave, he would go to Charleston and buy what the first sale lists called a "negro wench" or a negro man; paying for a female an amount about equal to four hundred dollars, and for an able-bodied man perhaps as much as one hundred dollars more. When the county was formed in 1762, there were only a few slave owners in this section. The first recorded sale of a negro at auction in Mecklenburg was at Hugh Irwin's sale in 1764, when a "negro" was sold for seventy-five pounds. Previous to 1774, not more than two slaves were disposed of at any public sale of an estate, though it is certain that some persons owned more than that number before that date. At Moses Alexander's sale in 1774, "a negro wench and child and fellow" were sold for one hundred and seventy-five pounds, "a negro wench and child" for one hundred and thirty pounds, one "negro man" for sixty-nine pounds and another for one hundred and twenty-three pounds, a "negro wench" for eighty-eight pounds and a "negro child" for thirty-six pounds. This was the largest slave sale held in the county before the Revolution, Moses Alexander being the largest slave owner of his day.

By this time, slaves had learned how to run away from their masters. In 1769, George Cathey charged Archibald Cathey three pounds and four shillings for going to Newbern "after runaway negroes." The sparsely settled country then afforded many avenues of escape to the runaways, and their capture was attended with difficulties. There were in the county a few white "indentured servants" who had been sent over from England because of debt or crime, but this class entirely disappeared with the Revolution. One of these, Johnston Clark, was sold at Archibald Cathey's sale in 1777, and was purchased by Josiah Cathey for twenty-one

pounds. Hezekiah Alexander freed an "indented slave" in 1772.

Even before the Revolution, there was opposition to slavery because of economic reasons. The Rowan county committee of safety, August 8, 1774, adopted resolutions which fairly expressed the views of a majority of the people of this whole section, declaring: "That the African trade is injurious to this colony, obstructs the population of it by freemen, prevents manufacturers and other useful emigrants from Europe from settling among us, and occasions an annual balance of trade against the colonies." During the Revolutionary war, the progress of slave trade was very slow, and not until after the United States government was fully established did it take on new life.

The British invasion in 1780 and the events of the war during the next year caused slave owners much annoyance in the control of their slaves. The British promised freedom to all slaves who would join their forces, but only a few accepted the invitation and nearly all these were finally regained by their owners. A great number, however, took advantage of the exciting times and endeavored to escape. John Sample owned one who ran away seven times in 1781 and 1782, but was caught every time.

In the year 1791, the county court empowered the sheriff to seize and sell at auction all horses found in the possession of slaves who were off the plantations of their masters. The reason given for this action was that "danger to life and injuries of various kinds would likely result from the possession of horses by negro slaves." Two years later, the court ordered the officers to arrest and confine in the county jail all negroes "ranging at large during public meetings in the town of Charlotte except such as carried passes from their masters," and that "in case of an arrest of this kind, the owner of the slave shall pay all costs of the action." The reason assigned for this proceeding was that "sundry injuries have arisen to the owners of slaves by the promiscuous

mingling of the negro population with the whites on public occasions."

In 1791, a negro man named Ben was tried by the court and sentenced to death for burglary, and in 1793 a slave named Simon was similarly sentenced for a like offense. One Sunday in the Spring of 1793, Ben, Joe and Sam, slaves living near Providence, came to Charlotte and stole a ten gallon keg of whiskey from a spring house. After getting drunk, they stole a horse from a pasture and rode off, but were soon apprehended, tried and sentenced to receive fifty lashes on the bare back. Their owners were taxed with all costs, and in this trial slaves served as witnesses, but were not sworn.

During the last decade before 1800, the largest slave owners in the county were T. Hood, John Ford and James Walkup, who owned eight, nine and twelve slaves respectively. The names of slaves are interesting in view of the fact that they often suggested the character and education of the owners. Hood's were named Jacob, Charlotte, Weyer, Dinah, Hannah, Josiah and Prudence; Ford's were Phebe, Dinah, Sylvia, Charlotte, Jack, Dice, Will and Julius. Walkup's slaves were sold in 1798 for prices ranging from twenty-five to four hundred and twenty-five dollars each, and among them were Titus, Farrabo and Prince. Rev. Samuel Kennedy called his: Romulus, Juno, Daphne, Alpheus, Joseph and Terah.

By the will of John Wilson, who died in 1795, it was provided that one of his slaves, a negro man named Plumb, should be given his freedom. The county court in the next year recommended Plumb to the General Assembly as worthy of emancipation and his freedom was secured. This proceeding was not uncommon in Mecklenburg in the latter part of the century.

Before 1800, it was rare that a slave owner taught his slaves to do anything but farm work. In 1785, David Allison charged James Cannon, of the Hopewell section, twelve pounds for one month's work of two negro tailors, and some negroes were employed in wagon shops and other places of

the kind, but there was a widespread prejudice against the use of slave labor in occupations of skill on account of its competition with free white labor. With the invention of the cotton gin and the resultant increase in cotton production, slave labor increased to such an extent that it was utilized in nearly all occupations. This left the poor whites no alternative but to work in competition with the slaves trained by the whites in more fortunate circumstances, who had, as a consequence, ceased to work.

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*Authority:*—County and Private Records, Printed Notices, Receipts and Bills.



*Mr. Geo. S. Ballou*

**To Joseph Gales Dr.**

Printer, Bookseller, Stationer and Proprietor of the Raleigh Register.

To the RALEIGH REGISTER, and North-Carolina Gazette, from

Dollars Cent

*From 21. 1805 to Aug 17. 1810 - } 14 75*

Received Payment,

RECEIPT DATED IN 1810.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### FIRST YEARS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY. (1800 to 1825.)

Statistics of Wealth and Population of the County and City—Improvements in Public Buildings—Proceedings and Methods of the Courts—Richest Man in the County Worth \$10,700.

Statistics recorded in the early years of our history are very conflicting and unsatisfactory, the cause being that the monetary system was unstable and oscillating so that money values were not always the same; a great portion of property was not returned for taxation, people paid taxes where they lived on property wherever it might be, and the difficulty attending travel made the duties of the officers hard to fulfill. Some people would list their taxes one year and omit the duty the next. People living in Charlotte would list all their slaves in the county as though they lived here, thus causing it to appear that the blacks greatly outnumbered the whites in the town.

Tax returns in 1800 for Mecklenburg county included 293,145 acres of land, and town property in Charlotte valued at 2,835 pounds. The county tax was 4 pence on 100 acres of land and 1 shilling on each poll and each 100 pounds valuation of town property. All white men between the ages of twenty-one and fifty were subject to poll tax, and they numbered 1,247; all negroes between the ages of twelve and fifty were subject to the tax, and they numbered 854. James Neel was sheriff of the county in 1800, and continued in that capacity until 1802, when he was succeeded by Robert Barry, who, the next year, was succeeded by William Beatty, who lived but a few months, his unexpired term being filled by John Cook. In those years, the law allowed the county jailor 2s. 6d. a day for each prisoner, and the rations for the prison inmates consisted daily of "one pound of wholesome bread, one pound of good roasted or boiled meat and all the water needed."

At the July term of court, 1802, Thomas Alexander was deputized to erect a whipping post and stocks near the jail, and Edwin Jay Osborne was admitted to the practice of law. James Potts had been licensed the preceding year. The State tax in that year amounted to 627 pounds in Mecklenburg, and of this amount 253 pounds was paid on cotton machinery and three pounds on town property. The tax levied by the State then was 8d. on 100 acres of land, 2s. on 100 pounds valuation of town property, 2s. on each poll, an annual tax of ten pounds on peddlers and a tax on the amount of goods sold by stores. Mecklenburg's State tax in 1803 amounted to 546 pounds, 654 in 1804 and 632 in 1805. In the latter year, 212 pounds tax was paid on cotton gins, Mecklenburg leading all the other counties in the number of gins.

In 1803, David Cowan was appointed standard keeper of weights and measures, and \$58 was allowed him with which to purchase the necessary outfit. Samuel Lowrie was appointed State's Attorney at the July court, and Dr. Nathan Alexander, David Cowan and John Sharpe were appointed a committee to investigate and report upon the advisability of building a new jail. They reported in favor of the new building. Cowan resigned as standard keeper in the following year and William Davidson was appointed to the vacancy at the October court. The same court licensed John Beatty to keep a tavern in Charlotte, and sentenced Henry Price to confinement for one-half an hour in the stocks for quarreling, and fined Henry Emberson five dollars for a similar offense.

At the April term of court, in the following year, Gen. George Graham, Capt. William Davidson and Isaac Alexander were appointed commissioners to investigate the condition of the public buildings and the finances of the county. Though they and the sheriff recommended that a new jail should be built, all that was done was to appropriate ten pounds for repairs. John Black was appointed county surveyor. At this time the system of patrolling was in full





COTTON PLANT IN SEPTEMBER.





COTTON PLANT IN NOVEMBER.





force, and six patrols were appointed for the Charlotte militia district, and these patrols were of much service in preventing troubles among slaves and in apprehending the run-aways. In 1805, Nathaniel Alexander, of Mecklenburg, was elected Governor of North Carolina, and he occupied the office for one term.

Charlotte's charter was amended by the General Assembly in 1807, and the commissioners appointed were William Davidson, Archibald Trice, Joseph Faires, William Allison and William Carson. They were empowered to make all necessary rules and regulations for the government of the town and to enforce them. The body was also made self-perpetuating; they elected their own successors.

The General Assembly, in 1806, provided for Superior courts, and divided the State into six judicial districts, Mecklenburg being in the sixth. The first Superior court was accordingly held by Judge Francis Locke in this county in the following January. David Cowan was the first Superior court clerk, and Winfield Mason was appointed master in equity. Elections in those times were held at the residences of John Ray, Robert Hood and Margaret Davidson, to provide for all sections of the county, though any resident could vote at the court house if he preferred. The election was held on the Tuesday preceding the second Thursday in August, and began at noon and ended at sunset, when the ballot boxes were sealed and carried immediately to the court house in Charlotte.

Adlai L. Osborne was admitted to the practice of law in 1808, and at the same court several other matters of interest transpired. An additional ten pounds was appropriated for repairs on the jail. Two slaves, Ephraim and Moses, were acquitted of the charge of killing Jack, a negro belonging to Joseph Spratt, and Charles Richmond and James Summers were fined five dollars each for an affray in the presence of the court. The next year, William Carson was appointed standard keeper, George Hampton sheriff, Thomas Alexander treasurer, and John McKnitt Alexander county

trustee. Archibald Henderson, an attorney, presented to the court the naturalization papers of John Patterson, this being the first instance of the kind on record. Authority was given to sell the old jail, as provision for a new one had been made. That year is notable for the fact that the United States currency law went into effect, and thereafter transactions were made in dollars and cents. In 1810, at the July court, James Lewis Crawford transferred to William Allison the Mecklenburg rights of Freeman's patent washing machine for a term of fourteen years, and the contract was registered. In this year also, a new court house was erected.

The war with England in 1812-14, did not directly concern the people of Mecklenburg, and the issues were of no material consequence to them. However, this did not prevent the people from assisting to expel the foreign forces, and five companies of Mecklenburg troops served throughout the war and did noble service for their country. There were nearly five hundred men in the five companies. After the defeat of the British at New Orleans, Colonel Joseph Graham was sent with his regiment against the Creek Indians in Alabama, but Gen. Andrew Jackson had completely defeated them when he arrived.

In 1814, there were in Charlotte 237 town lots, valued at \$36,000; five stores, seventy-eight white polls and 228 blacks. It is to be borne in mind that most of these negroes were living on farms outside of Charlotte. In 1818, there were seventy families in the town district. In the next year the town lots were valued at \$41,400, there were 118 tax payers in Charlotte and there were thirty stores in the county. In 1830, the town property was valued at \$46,300, and there were eleven stores in the town.

The court held in July, 1823, ordered that the notices should be published in the *Western Carolinian*. In that year also, the General Assembly incorporated the New Providence Library Association, which was organized for the purposes of general reading and literary culture. The Centre Library Society was incorporated in 1817. In 1825, there

were 258 town lots returned for taxation; William Smith was postmaster in Charlotte, and there were ten other post-offices in the county. At that time the population of Charlotte was about seven hundred. The public buildings consisted of the court house, jail and postoffice; there were fourteen stores, several taverns and a number of persons engaged in the industries of tailoring, weaving, wagon making and other employments requiring skill. Mills and shops of various kinds were in operation in the county. There were perhaps ten lawyers in the county and as many physicians. Drs. McKenzie and Caldwell were the leading practitioners. In 1819, William Davidson was the richest man in the county; he owned twenty-three slaves, 1,835 acres of land, and his total assessed property amounted to \$10,700. Thomas G. Polk's property was valued at \$10,611, and eight others in the county were worth more than five thousand dollars each.

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*Authority:*—County Records and Personal Accounts.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE COTTON INDUSTRY. (1790 to 1825.)

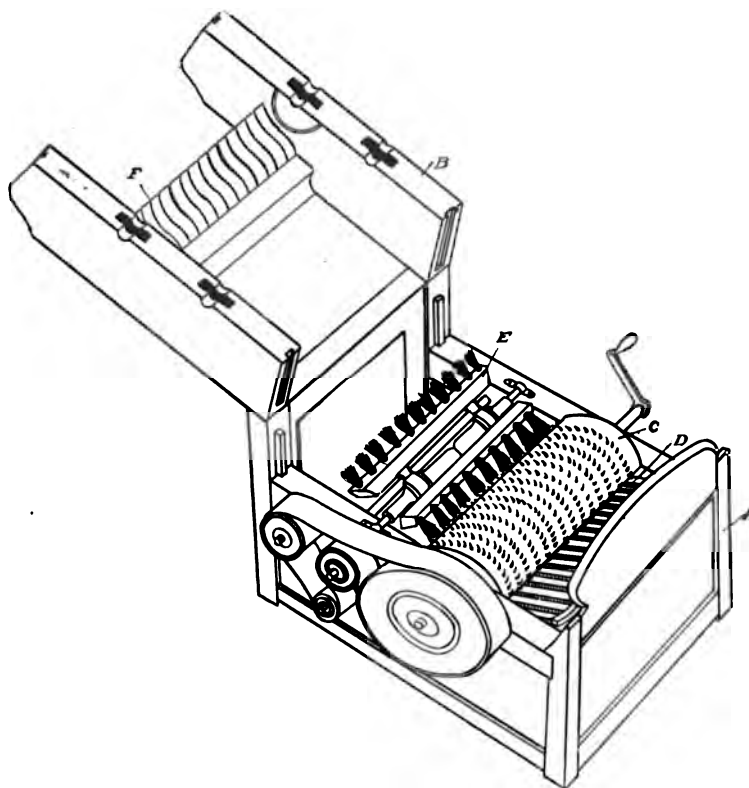
**First Planting in the Colonies Was Experimental—Little Progress Made Previous to the Invention of the Cotton Gin—Two Thousand Saws in Use in Mecklenburg in 1803—Rapid Development Thereafter.**

The history of the cultivation of cotton goes back to a thousand years before the Christian era. Details of the first planting, and even the introduction of it into the United States, do not immediately concern us except to demonstrate the wonderful evolution from its cultivation for mere household use to the leading industrial feature of the South. In the course of this phenomenal growth and expansion, there are some points of peculiar interest.

It is well known that the first colonists who came over from England were experimenters and adventurers. They came for the novelty of new experiences, and consequently accomplished but little. When it was realized that the New World needed men who were willing to endure hardships and toil for poor remuneration, the settlers were not so eager to come, but those who did venture to undertake the task of building a new country were of a practical kind. However, they continued to experiment, always hoping to find an easier way to live.

Cotton planting was begun by the first permanent settlers in Virginia in the early part of the seventeenth century. They hoped that something good would come of it, but they were hoping without reason, for cotton was not then a practical industry. The first exportation of cotton, consisting of eight bags weighing 1,200 pounds, was made from Virginia in 1784. When Mecklenburg was settled, between 1740 and 1760, the pioneers were slow to undertake the planting of cotton. They were busy with the building of their homes,





WHITNEY'S ORIGINAL MODEL.



with their defense and with the sustenance of life. The small amount of ground which was tilled was for the necessities of life, and cotton was not one of them. Nearly everything used by them was produced by the users, and, therefore, there was no use for cotton except in the home. Then the difficulty and tediousness of separating the seed and the lint served to retard the growth of the industry.

Ten years after the county was organized with an established government, the Revolutionary troubles began. During the war, all occupations were more or less paralyzed, and it was certainly no fit time for introducing a new one. After the war, from 1782 to 1795, considerable cotton was planted in the county, though all of it was for use in the family. The lint was laboriously picked from the seed by hand, and was then put into practical form by means of the spinning wheel or spinning jenny and the loom. A demand for cotton goods sprang up and people began to plant it for purposes of sale. The great and constant annoyance was the necessity for picking the cotton by hand; and the importance of a machine to replace this tedious process was plain.

Eli Whitney, a young New Englander, had gone to Georgia to teach school, and was living at the residence of the widow of Gen. Greene, near Savannah. There he heard so much talk of the necessity for the invention that he gave his attention to the matter. In 1793, he made the model of his "gin," and a patent was obtained in the following year. In 1796, Hodgen Holmes, of Augusta, Ga., made a very important improvement by substituting the saw for the wire-spiked roller, and he obtained a patent on his "gin." As a result of these two patents, there was much litigation and ill-feeling, and it was said that Whitney was not treated fairly in the South, though the three States of North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee gave him a total of \$90,000 for his patent, part of which he utilized in an attempt to form a monopoly west of the Savannah river, and the balance he used as a basis to begin the manufacture of firearms in New Haven. This invention was the first great incentive to the

cotton industry, and its growth from that time was rapid and steady. The expansion of cotton planting naturally increased the demand for slave labor, and the increase of slave labor increased cotton planting, so these two forces in southern life were linked together and were, in a sense, dependent upon each other.

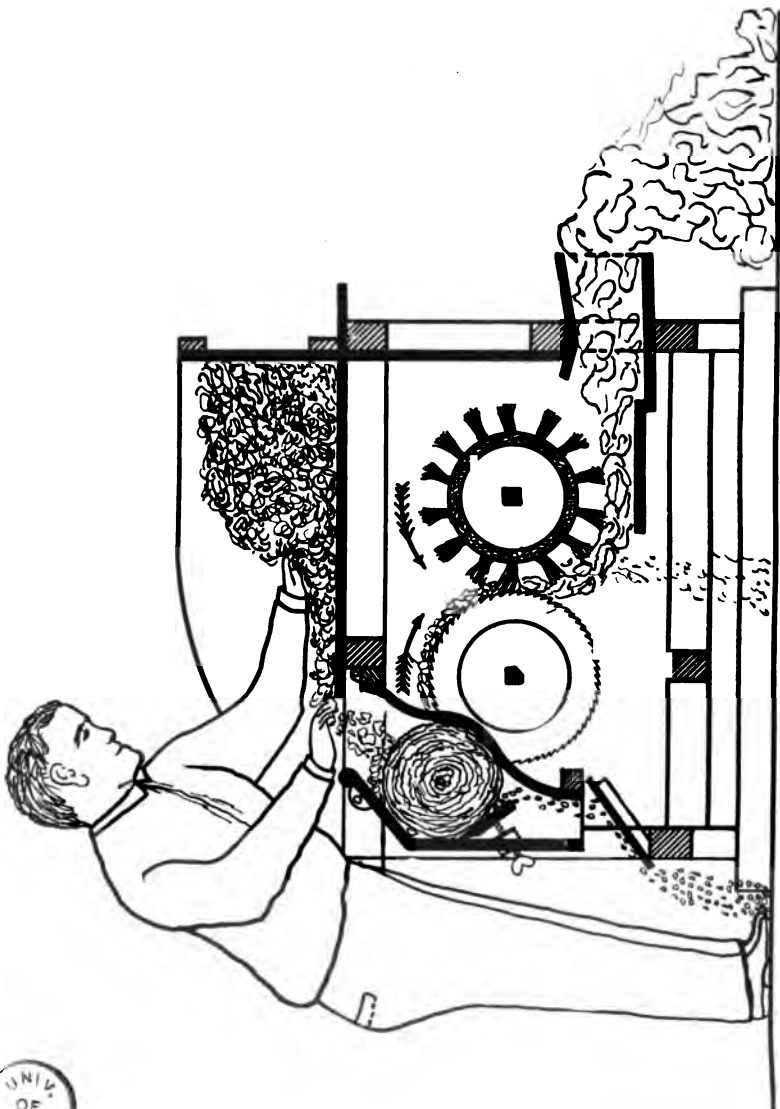
In 1802, the Legislature of North Carolina bought the patent right for this State, agreeing to pay Whitney for it by a special tax of two shillings and six pence on each saw used in a gin within the State for a period of five years. The tax was collected and paid to the inventor. It amounted to about thirty thousand dollars. This tax, which amounted to an average of \$7,500 a year, indicates that there were about thirty thousand saws in use at that time.

In the settlement of the taxes for Mecklenburg, made November 30, 1802, the amount of cotton gin tax was 253 pounds and 16 shillings, which shows that there were about two thousand saws in use in this county. Mecklenburg led all the other counties in the amount of this tax. In 1803, the tax amounted to only 182 pounds. In 1804, Mecklenburg paid 212 pounds, and Lincoln county was second in the State with 56 pounds. In 1805, the tax amounted to 213 pounds, and Mecklenburg continued at the head of the list of cotton producing counties. This first cotton gin was a primitive affair, being nothing more extensive than a box about three feet long, two feet high, and two feet wide. Inside the box was the simple machinery that separated the seed from the lint about five times as fast as it could be done by hand. The principal feature of Whitney's original model was a wooden cylinder carrying annular rows of wire spikes, which was subsequently superseded by Holmes' improvement, which consisted of shaft carrying collars separating circular saws, which passed through narrow spaces between ribs, through which the seed could not pass.

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*Authority:*—State and County Records, and Photographs and *fac similes* of Original Patents.





HOLMES' SAW GIN.

## CHAPTER XX.

### EFFECT OF SLAVERY ON INDUSTRIES.

**Occupations of First Settlers and the Causes—They Made All They Used—Slavery Induced Them to Turn Their Entire Attention to Agriculture—Comfortable and Peaceable Conditions Prevailed.**

It is a well established fact that contentment is not conducive to progress. People who are satisfied with their condition in life have no desire to go forward, or to explore new and untried fields of endeavor. The settlers of this county came here because of dissatisfaction with conditions existing where they had been living, and they were, therefore, willing to risk what little they possessed for a chance of winning more. They built their rude homes in the forest, and were eager to accept any device or any phase of industry that would tend to economize labor or to simplify the difficulties of their existence.

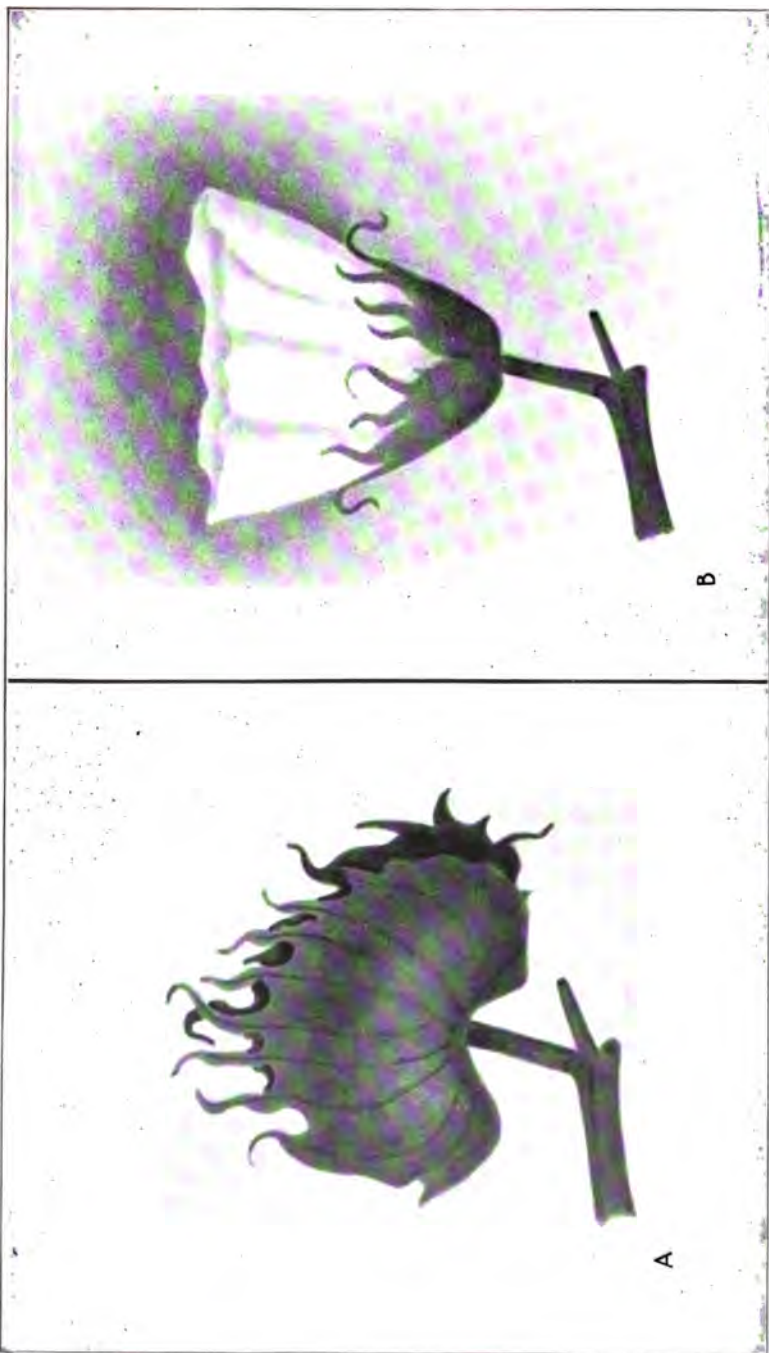
These first citizens became mechanics, carpenters and traders. They built shops and made wagons. They tried to produce everything needed for themselves and something else that might be sold for gain. If they were favored with abundant crops, the surplus was sold in Charleston and the money laid by or invested in property or comforts of life. The crops, however, did not afford sufficient means for trade and industrial expansion, and their attention was turned toward occupations requiring skill or special care. Cattle raising became important, and was developed to large proportions, the cattle being sold in Charleston or in Virginia, and sometimes even in Philadelphia. Weavers, millers and tailors manufactured goods for sale, as did wagon makers, basket makers and coopers. The liquor traffic began quite naturally; poor farmers would raise a few bushels of corn and distill it into liquor, which was easier to carry to market and easier to sell, and commanded a better price than

the original product. Inventions and improvements were being made, and the people were progressing into wider channels of commercial intercourse.

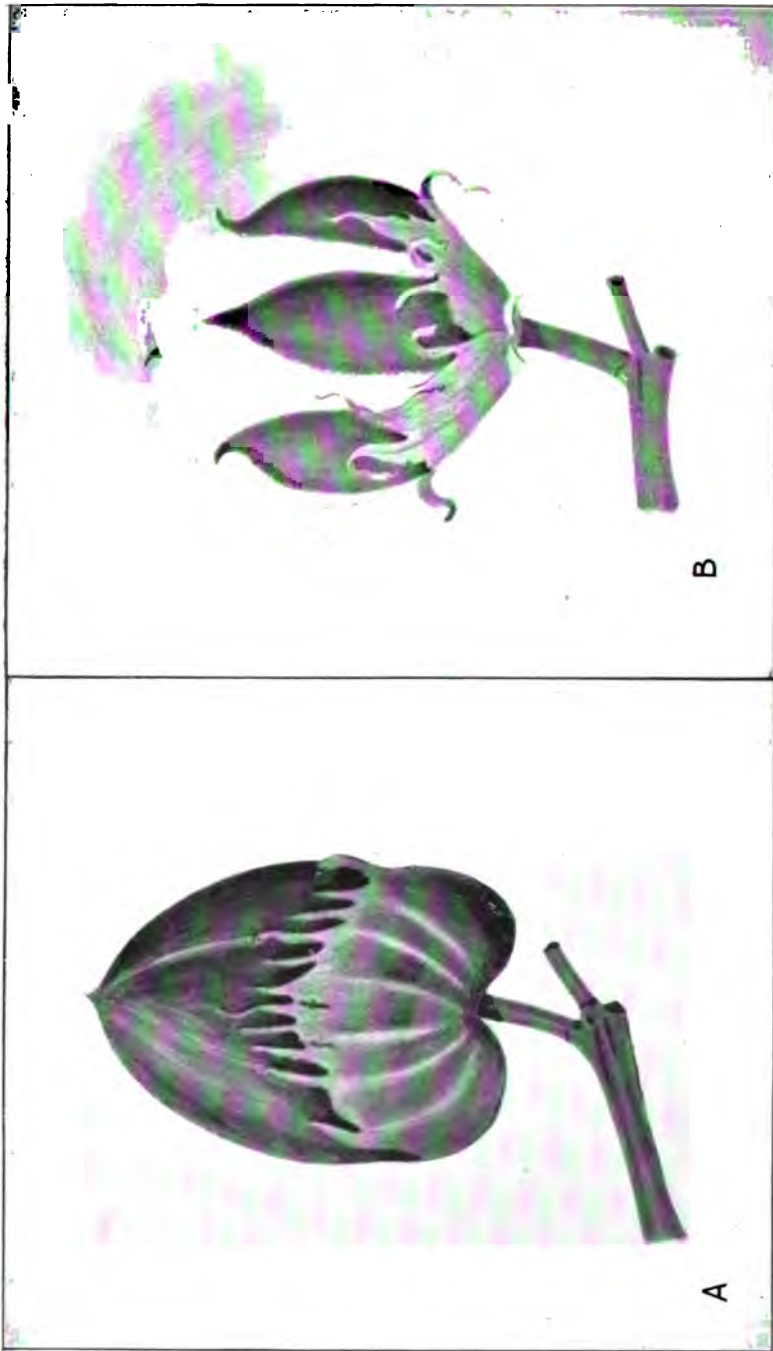
"Necessity is the mother of invention," and invention is the avenue to progress. Hence, among the first settlers the scarcity of labor and the distance from market made invention necessary, and thus made advancement and expansion natural and continuous. When there was the work of three men for one man to do, the one man turned his thoughts to other and better modes of doing the work, but when there were three men to do the work of one man, there was but little necessity for thought of any kind. People never focus their mental powers except for cause, and without concentrated mental application, nothing can be created; and we would continue forever in the same old rut if we did not create a new and better one.

Whitney's and Holmes' inventions in connection with the cotton gin had more lasting effect upon the life of our people than any other invention ever made. There was a double necessity for the invention; it greatly reduced the amount of labor required, and did the work better than it could be done by hand. To say that it increased cotton production would but poorly express the truth, because, for all purposes of commerce, the invention of the cotton gin began the cotton industry. The gin reduced the amount of labor needed for the separation of the cotton from the seed, but in the enormous increase of cotton planting, it created a larger demand than ever for slave labor. The farmers realized to what use the slaves could be put, and the slave traffic assumed large proportions. It was evident that there would be a steady market for cotton, and as slaves could do the farm work better than any other kind of work, cotton gradually superseded all other industries until it was not only the leading one, but the only one of any consequence. The shops which had been productive of trading were closed to the public, and were utilized only for what was needed on the plantation. The plantations generally produced a little of everything, but





COTTON "SQUARE" AND BLOOM.



MATURED BOLL AND OPENING BOLL.







**OPEN BOLL AND EMPTY BOLL.**

cotton was the only product for trade and gain. Labor was cheap and plentiful under the domination of slavery, and the controlling element of white people ceased to work for themselves. The result was that there were no industries requiring skill or thought, and there was no necessity for scientific farming or anything else scientific. Nothing was more natural than that the white population should be content with the situation. Slavery not only demonstrated that people will not think unless it is necessary, but also that they will not work unless it is necessary. The planters, of course, were busy and had responsibilities, but riding around and giving orders does not tend to intellectual growth in the direction of material progress.

Within three decades after the invention of the cotton gin, slavery had accomplished its revolution. The people whose minds had been occupied with diversified industries and industrial expansion were narrowed down to the development and growth of cotton. There is no denying the fact that in this period the southern white people were happy and prosperous and contented, but it was discernible that at some time the cotton production would reach its limit, the demand would be supplied, the price would decrease and the backward and retrogressive movement would begin. The mills and shops lay idle, the abundant natural resources were ignored, and everything staked upon one occupation, because it could be carried on by slave labor and the families of the planters could have all they needed without thinking of other means of obtaining wealth. There was simply no need for anything else right then.

The production of cotton with slave labor was an industry requiring much land per capita. It appears that the limit of population under this system was reached about 1830. The system of agriculture also rapidly exhausted the fertility of the soil. These two conditions conduced to a constant emigration to the northwest and southwest. Part of this emigration was of people who wanted to escape the system altogether, and the other part was of people who went

where more and better land was to be found, which was necessary to take care of the increasing population in connection with what was practically a single industry—the production of cotton.

The attention of men of education and great mental force was given to the professions, and the South furnished the statesmen for the nation, while the North got rich by the manufacture of the raw product taken from the South. The soil, the climate and the cheap labor were all favorable to agriculture, and particularly to cotton planting, and as the people could easily and comfortably live by this occupation alone, they did not care to engage in manufacturing or anything similar. All the work was done by slaves, and agriculture was the only work for which they were fitted. The capital of the people consisted of slaves, and that was a form of capital that could not be invested except in one department of labor. One of the chief reasons for the peaceable prosperity of the South was the freedom from agitators and struggles between labor and capital, caused by conditions wherein labor and capital were one and the same.

Summarizing, we find that the result of the introduction and growth of the system of slavery was revolutionary; it turned the energies of the people almost wholly to the cultivation of cotton; it practically destroyed all other industries; it developed a landed aristocracy; it gave ample leisure time to the white men for the study of professions; it unfitted the white men for manual labor, and it ultimately resulted in the hazardous risk of making the entire material wealth of a people dependent upon a single issue.

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*Authority:*—County Records and Personal Records and Business Accounts; Newspapers and Statistics of Population and Wealth.





THE "BIG HOUSE."

## CHAPTER XXI.

### LIFE IN THE OLD SOUTH.

**A Study of the Negro—Dispositions of Planters and Systems of Agriculture—Description of the Plantations, the "Big House" and the Cabins—Treatment of the Slaves—Social Diversions.**

Discussion of southern plantation conditions before the Civil War must necessarily include the study of the institution of slavery, because the life itself was dependent upon the work of the slaves. Had it not been for the system of slave labor, the noted southern aristocracy would have been impossible.

Measured by Anglo-Saxon standards, a low type of uneducated negro was one bundle of contradictions. He could sleep more and exist with less sleep, eat more and exist with less food, than could ordinary humanity. In honesty and dishonesty, in strong affections and violent passions, in unparalleled loyalty and savage disloyalty—his mood often moving with rapidity from one extreme to another—he was governed by his immediate surroundings and influences.

It is totally at variance with Anglo-Saxon character to live in absolute subjection and yet love the master. On the other hand, the negro was readily submissive and admired and loved his owner. The life on the plantation was one of absolute mastery on one side, and of absolute subjection on the other, with amicable personal relations between the two and affection on each side.

There were as many different types of negroes as there are of whites. Some of the slaves brought to America were totally savage, while others enjoyed a considerable degree of civilization. The highest type included those from the interior of Africa, who had developed a partial civilization and were seldom enslaved; the lowest type was undoubtedly the West Coast Guinea negro, who was entirely savage, and the

worst kind of cannibal. These latter in America were called "blue gum niggers," and the other negroes believed that the bite of a "blue gum" was deadly poisonous. The higher class came to be known as the "Dinka" negroes, but much the larger portion caught and brought to this country were naturally of the inferior types.

The slaves, when first brought across the ocean, were filled with terror at the new conditions. They could not understand the strange language and the many wonderful things about them, and expected some such fate as usually befell their tribesmen in Africa when overtaken by misfortune. The planter, living on his plantation, was always at hand to quell disturbances. The influence of his family was of manifest importance in keeping the better nature of the negroes to the fore. The negroes looked upon the whites with awe, and imitation of the ways of the whites was natural. It is easy to comprehend the great power the whites had over the characters of the blacks. A very generous and friendly kindness has an immense and far-reaching influence; that the kindness was real and that it bore fruit is amply proven by the world-astounding loyalty of the slaves to their masters during the Civil War.

Many people who were opposed to slavery have persistently represented the planter as a furious fighter or "fire-eater." Frequent duelling seemed to confirm this belief. As a matter of fact, the average planter, while amply courageous, was the most amiable, friendly, hospitable and unaggressive of men. He was slow to take or to give offence, and never carried a pistol or otherwise went prepared for a fight. When he felt himself offended by an inferior, he afflicted an ordinary chastisement; when his veracity or courage was questioned by an equal, there was a well formulated "Code Duello" printed in book form, in accordance with all the regulations of which he must, as a gentleman, proceed. The idea that the planter was indolent, an indifferent business man, and always a spendthrift, is totally in error. He was ever on the alert, was judicial minded, ener-





SPINNING WHEEL.





**SPINNING WHEEL.**



**YARN REEL.**





getic, usually well educated and always well trained in everything pertaining to the management of a plantation.

The system of agriculture operated by the planter was remarkably successful. Besides developing the production of cotton so as to give the world a better and cheaper supply than ever before, he at the same time produced more grain per capita, more meat per capita and more home supplies than the people of any other part of the United States. The methods of the organizations and of training the organizations were unsurpassed. The farmer before the war raised all the supplies needed at home, and sold his cotton or tobacco for clear gain. The fact that the support of all the humanity was produced on the plantation made profit certain, and even with cotton at 4 cents a pound, the planter would clear from 8 to 10 per cent. on his investment. The crop was generally laid out on the basis of twenty-five acres to one man and one mule. Of this land, ten acres would be put in cotton and the remainder in wheat, corn and oats. About one-half of the labor, including the strongest men, were selected for plow hands, and the older men, the strongest women and the youths did the hoeing, handling of the grain, picking the cotton and all miscellaneous work. The work of the able-bodied men was, of course, not confined to plowing; in season they did the blacksmithing, cleared land, made and repaired farm tools and ginned the cotton and hauled it to market.

The average southern plantation contained about three thousand acres and one hundred slaves, and such a one would be equipped with something like twenty-five plow hands, twenty-five miscellaneous hands, fifty women and children, twenty-five mules, four horses for family use, six hundred hogs, twenty-five head of cattle, one hundred sheep, ten goats and fifteen dogs, and chickens, guineas, peacocks, turkeys, geese and ducks. Then there were the blacksmith shop, wheelwright and other woodworking shops, twenty-five negro houses, a grist and flour mill, and a store. Such a plantation was worth \$100,000, would produce about 100

bales of cotton and would make a clear profit of from \$10,000 to \$20,000 a year, according to the way it was managed. Some planters were thrifty and economical, and accumulated wealth continuously; others employed overseers to look after the estate, and spent the profits in travel or in local extravagance.

It was customary for the planter and his family to live on the plantation, because the maintenance of the organization made their presence necessary. This afforded abundant leisure time to each member of the family, and the plantation home was always a hospitable place. The host and his family had ample service, horses, vehicles, plenty of home-raised food, excellent cooks and various amusements, such as hunting and fishing, with which to entertain their guests. Negroes were fond of music and supplied it whenever called upon, though no compulsion was employed in such cases—none was necessary. A slight suggestion by a young lady from the “big house” would bring forth a tender of services from everyone on the plantation who could play the fiddle or any other instrument. Besides being fond of music, the negroes enjoyed nothing more than the gayety and finery of dances; on such occasions they would stand in crowds on the outside of the open windows and enjoy the scene thoroughly. The publicity of all plantation life was good training for the young men, and accustomed them to appearing in public and contributed to make them public speakers and statesmen.

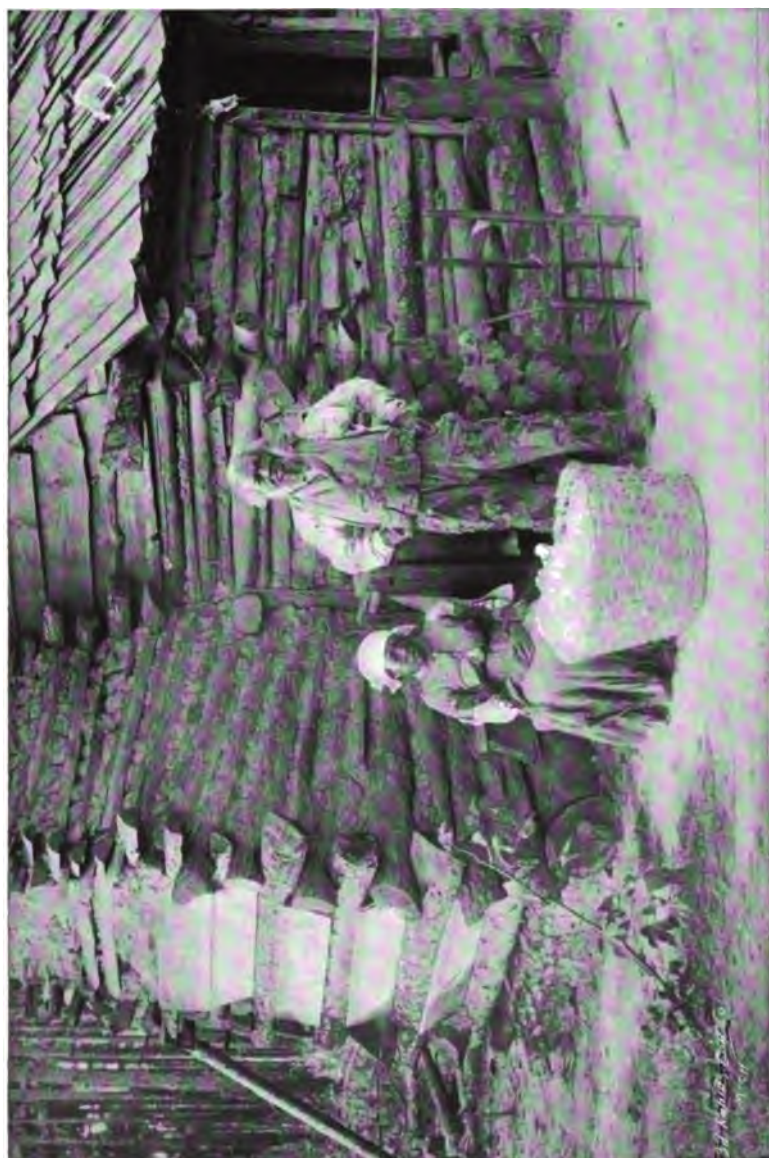
Previous to about 1845, most of the negro houses were built of logs, and the houses of many planters were similarly constructed. After 1845, most of the houses for planters and for slaves were frame buildings, those for the planter being usually large and pretentious, while those for the slaves were the ordinary little houses with two or three rooms. The log house was covered with boards six inches wide and from two to four feet long, which were riven or split from logs. Frame houses were covered with shingles. All these cabins were periodically whitewashed, and were





ANTE-BELLUM BEDROOM.





SLAVES AND THEIR CABIN, 1850.





generally kept fairly clean. All the slaves had to work when they were able to do so, but at no other time, and they all knew they would be cared for in old age and in sickness. The old negroes were much respected, and each one would have his little cabin, and perhaps a garden, and there, with his family about him, would pass his last days in peace. Some of the negroes would spend their evenings and holidays in hunting; others would work a little plot of garden and produce something and thus earn a little extra money, which would be expended in any way they desired.

Well regulated plantations were generally in the immediate control of the owner, but if he chanced to be a professional man, fond of travel or otherwise engaged away from home, he employed an overseer. There was a wagon shop on nearly every plantation. Wagons had wooden axles and were lubricated with pine tar made in a "tar kiln." In the smithshop they used charcoal made in a "coal kiln." Collars for mules were made at home of corn shucks or poplar bark. Much cotton and wool was spun at home, a small quantity woven, and wool was frequently exchanged at a factory for cloth. The planter's wife overlooked the weaving and making of the clothes, though the work was done by the negroes. The ladies in the family provided the very best attention for the slaves when sick, and guarded carefully against any unavoidable suffering. Nearly all ladies were good horseback riders, and could handle horses not only easily, but so well as to make it a real pleasure. Churches were liberally provided, and master and slave attended services regularly, a gallery being arranged in all churches for the negroes. In the summer, when the crops were "laid by," there would be protracted and camp meetings, which would draw the people from far and near.

Plantation amusements were various and numerous. In all of them the negroes took interest, and in some participated. Fox hunting was very popular. Some few planters kept as many as twenty-five or thirty fox hounds. It was not uncommon for ladies to take part in the chase. Almost

every planter kept a few pointer or setter dogs, and hunted partridges. Besides these dogs kept by the planter himself, his sons and the negroes had a miscellaneous collection of rabbit dogs, coon dogs and "possum" dogs. Fishing was common and popular. Horse racing, chicken fighting, wrestling and boxing were all popular and were conducted with decorum. Betting was not common, but sometimes it would be carried to the extreme by some event of unusual interest. House parties, dances and picnics were frequent among the young white people, while the older ones indulged in barbecues with political speaking or impromptu speeches of any kind. The white boys and the negroes hunted rabbits in day time and coons and opossums at night.

Much of the work was turned into frolics. Negroes from different plantations would be gathered together at "corn shuckings," where they would be divided into two parties, each with a huge pile of corn, and with singing and laughter would have an exciting contest. Plenty to drink and eat was supplied, and the white people would stand around and witness the fun. Similar combinations were effected for clearing land, house raisings and log rollings, while the ladies had their quilting parties and other pleasant gatherings.

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*Authority:*—"The Old Plantation," by James Gordon Avirett; Newspapers, and the Recollections and Personal Investigations of the Author.

## CHAPTER XXII.

### CHURCHES BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR.

**Growth of the Congregations in the County and the Building of the First Churches in Charlotte—Something of the Most Noted Ministers and Their Great Influence—Revivals and Various Religious Incidents.**

Charlotte, in 1815, set apart a lot on Trade and Church streets to be used for religious purposes and for a cemetery. The people of the town combined and erected a comfortable building, which was for many years used by preachers of all denominations. There had been considerable bitter feeling in the county between the members of the various religious organizations, and this union house of worship in Charlotte began a charitable friendliness among the local churches which has never ceased.

In 1821, the Charlotte members of the Sugar Creek Presbyterian church petitioned to be formed into a separate congregation. Rev. S. C. Caldwell, the pastor at Sugar creek, had been preaching in Charlotte once a month since 1805, and continued to do so until his death in the Fall of 1826. June 8, 1827, Rev. R. H. Morrison was installed as pastor of the congregations of Charlotte and Sugar creek, and he served these churches until April 3, 1833, when his pastoral relation with "the church of Charlotte" was dissolved.

The Presbyterians secured control of the town church in 1832, and in the following year, erected a better building. On the fourth Sunday in August, 1833, the new church was occupied and "David Parks and Nathan B. Carroll were appointed elders." Soon after this, a revival was conducted by Revs. Morrison and Leavenworth, assisted by Revs. Furman and Barnes, of the Baptists. As a result of the meetings, thirty-six new members were received into the church. Rev. A. J. Leavenworth was pastor from 1834 until March

12, 1839. Revs. Thomas Owen, John M. M. Culpepper and Harper Caldwell served from 1839 to 1842; Rev. J. F. W. Freeman from 1842 to 1846; Rev. Cyrus Johnston from 1846 to 1855; Rev. A. W. Miller from 1855 to 1857; Rev. Alexander Sinclair from 1857 to 1865. William Carson, who died November 22, 1846, bequeathed \$1,000 to the Presbyterian church and \$5,000 and his library to Davidson College.

January 7, 1833, an auxiliary of the American Tract Society was formed in Charlotte. Isaac Alexander was chairman, Rev. A. J. Leavenworth secretary, and David Parks treasurer. The purpose of the society was to circulate tracts and other printed matter for the stimulation of religious interest. January 7, 1834, a Sunday School Union was formed in the town, and \$100 raised to promote the work.

Rev. David J. Allen, a Methodist, was stationed in Charlotte in February, 1834, succeeding Rev. J. J. Allison. The Methodist congregation had been organized since 1815, and the town church, which has since become Tryon Street Methodist Episcopal church, grew from the original congregation at Buck's Hill, seven miles northwest of Charlotte, on the Beatty's Ford road. Their first church was erected on Seventh street in 1834, and it served until the present site was occupied in 1859. D. R. Dunlap and Brawley Oates were the leaders in the organization of the congregation in 1815. This church was one of a circuit until 1833, when it was made a station. The Harrison Methodist church, in the southern part of the county, was established in 1785. Another, of which Andrew Moore was founder, was built at "Bethesda," in the western part of the county, about 1810. In June, 1853, there was a Methodist revival and quarterly conference in Charlotte, which was attended by Presiding Elder Durant, Evangelist Baker, of Texas, and Rev. Mr. Jenkins, who had been a missionary in China. The missionary had with him a Chinaman and some Chinese images which excited much comment. Great interest was manifested in the meeting, a large amount was raised for

foreign missions, and fifty persons were converted. In April, 1858, another revival, lasting three weeks, added forty-five members.

Rev. Mr. Barnes, of the Baptist denomination, was preaching in Charlotte in 1833. During that year and the next, he and Revs. John Culpepper and Wait preached occasionally in the county court house. In 1839, the church was erected on Fourth street, but it was sold a few years later and a better one was built at the corner of Seventh and Brevard streets.

Rev. G. D. Berkheim was in Charlotte in the early part of 1859, to organize a Lutheran church. The building was erected in March, and Revs. Bittle and Berkheim were the preachers for the congregation. The Episcopal church was organized in 1845, and a new church occupied June 22, 1858. Rev. Mr. Parker, of Salisbury, served the church until a regular pastor was secured.

Rev. Joseph Stokes, in 1824, was the first Catholic priest to visit this section. Rev. John Maginnis succeeded him in Charlotte in 1827. He taught school at his house and preached, and gradually drew around him a Catholic congregation. Rev. J. J. O'Connell was appointed to the mission in 1851, and in the same year built the first Catholic church in Charlotte.

The Associate Reformed Presbyterians did not have a church in Charlotte before 1860, though several of that belief resided in town. In the county, however, they were second only to the Presbyterians in getting started. Gilead church was formed in 1788, and Little Steele creek in 1795, and there were also Associate Reformed Presbyterian churches at Coddle creek, Prosperity, Hopewell and Sardis. Among the able men who served these churches were Revs. James McKnight, John Boyce, Alexander Ranson and John Hunter.

From 1800 to 1860, the noted seven Presbyterian churches of Mecklenburg were all prospering, and new ones were being formed in the county, principally by members

of these old churches. Pleasant Hill church was formed by members of Steele creek in 1836, and began with forty-two members. In the latter part of May, 1858, there was a revival at Hopewell, conducted by Rev. S. C. Pharr, the pastor, who was assisted by Rev. R. H. Morrison. As a result of the meeting, fifty members were taken into the fold. In 1831, Sharon church was formed by the members of Providence who lived north of McAlpin's creek.

Camp meetings and revivals were annual events of importance. There was in every section a camp meeting ground with a large arbor for preaching, and little cabins for the accommodation of the people. Many of the people would carry tents with them, and they would remain for weeks at a time. The best preachers were obtained for such occasions, and sometimes the excitement was intense and large numbers were converted.

The ministers were generally well equipped with this world's goods. In 1819, Rev. John Williamson owned 504 acres of land, and his property was valued at \$2,312. Rev. S. C. Caldwell owned property amounting to \$2,702; Rev. Humphrey Hunter was worth \$1,500; Rev. James Wallis \$3,526, and Rev. Isaac Grier \$1,200. They each owned several slaves and large tracts of land. Rev. S. C. Caldwell had 904 acres of land and eight slaves.

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*Authority:*—Newspapers and Church Records and Sketches.



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**SUBSCRIPTIONS TO CHARLOTTE ACADEMY, 1823.**

## CHAPTER XXIII.

### EDUCATION BEFORE 1860.

**First Chartered Schools—County Academies—Ministers Conducted  
Excellent Schools—Beginning of the Public System—Military  
Institute—Male and Female Institutes—Davidson College.**

There was little difference in the general aspect of Mecklenburg county schools before 1800 and between that time and 1860. At the principal churches in the county, excellent schools were maintained by the ministers, nearly all of whom were accomplished scholars. A number of these schools were chartered and had a regular course of instruction. Previous to the beginning of the public school system, about 1840, there were numerous teachers other than the ministers, who were regularly engaged in school work, and from 1840 the ministers were gradually supplanted in the work by men who could give their entire time to it.

Rocky River Academy was incorporated in 1812, and New Providence Academy was chartered in 1811, at which time James Wallis was principal. A high grade school was maintained there for many years. In 1852, there were two schools in the neighborhood. Miss H. G. Graham was conducting Providence Whitehall Academy, and Miss Sarah J. Parks was principal of Providence Female Academy. In 1853, W. B. Pressly taught at Sugar creek, and two years later the school was under the direction of John B. Parkey. T. M. Kirkpatrick, who had taught at Davidson, began Sharon Female Academy, seven miles from Charlotte, in February, 1849. He continued in charge of it until his death in 1855, being succeeded by Miss Eliza Parker. In 1854, Rev. R. F. Taylor began a classical school at Rock creek, and in 1855, Miss Susan Rudisill was teaching a school for girls at the residence of Mrs. Margaret Grier, in the Paw creek section.

S. W. Irwin was at the head of a classical school at Mallard creek church in 1834, and in the same year, Rev. John Maginnis was teaching a preparatory school on Tryon street, in Charlotte. J. C. Denny, who had taught two sessions in Charlotte, was at Steele creek in 1853. Robert G. Allison began the third session of the Charlotte English and Classical School in October, 1855. Rev. J. M. Caldwell and his wife taught at Sugar creek for several years before 1845. Then Misses Gould and Chamberlain conducted Claremont Academy, near the Sugar creek church, for several sessions, and in 1852, Miss Mary Ann Frew was teaching there. About that time, a daughter of J. R. Alexander was teaching a girls' school at her father's residence, half way between Charlotte and Davidson College. S. D. Wharton, of Alexandriana, was teaching at Hopewell in July, 1850, and in 1853 Mt. Carmel Academy was taught by Miss Brandon. Good schools were also conducted at Harrisburg and Cedar Grove.

Some of the teachers and many of the ministers, about the middle of the century, were highly educated. In June, 1847, Prof. Pliny Miles lectured in the Female Academy on the art of improving the memory. November 16, 1848, Rev. J. W. F. Freeman delivered an astronomical lecture in the Presbyterian church "preparatory to forming a night class for the study of astronomy by aid of Mathison's splendid diagrams." In 1853, Prof. R. H. A. Koch was teaching music in Charlotte, and in the following year Adolphus Evvette, a Frenchman, was giving special instruction to ladies in the "new system of drawing." There was usually a dancing school, and sometimes as many as three or four. September 17, 1839, Mr. A. G. Powers was teaching writing and shorthand in the town.

In 1837, North Carolina received \$1,500,000 from the United States as her share of the funds which had accumulated from the sale of public lands. This amount, with some other then on hand, was used as a public school fund, and a literary board was organized consisting of the Gov-

ernor and three others by him appointed. In 1839, the counties were divided into school districts, six miles square, and each county voted whether or not to have public schools, all but one voting in favor of it. Mecklenburg's vote was 950 for and 578 against, and in Charlotte it was 314 to 51. The county school tax assessed was six cents on the poll and three cents on the \$100 valuation of property. The county schools were under the control of a board of seven superintendents, and each school had three committeemen. The income from the State fund was supplemented by a tax levied by the county courts, and the court was authorized to levy, on any district having as many as fifty school children, a tax sufficient to build a school house.

Rather than pay the tax, the people preferred to build the houses, so rough log buildings were erected, though there were a few neat frame structures in the county. Where there had not previously been a school, new teachers were employed, and as they could only be employed for a part of each year at a meagre salary, they were not of the highest order. In other places, however, the public schools were combined with the old schools. In 1849, the public money in district No. 50 was paid to Alexandriana Academy and used wholly for the poor people. Mrs. E. Wilson, the teacher, kept account of the number of days attended by children whose parents were unable to pay tuition, and this was charged to the public fund. Mecklenburg's portion of the public money, together with the county tax, amounted to \$2,149 in 1849, and to \$3,449 in 1850, in which year it was the second largest county fund in the State. In 1841, there were seventy-seven school districts in Mecklenburg. The salaries of teachers ranged from fifteen dollars to thirty dollars a month, and the books used included Webster's speller, North Carolina reader, Davie's arithmetic and Smith's grammar.

January 8, 1838, the Charlotte Male Academy opened, in charge of Rev. A. J. Leavenworth, and about forty students were enrolled. Mr. Leavenworth was followed by

Thomas A. Avery, and he by Robert G. Allison. Mr. T. C. Pomeroy, of New York, was the next principal.

October 9, 1848, Rev. J. W. F. Freeman was in charge of the Academy. He was followed the next year by Prof. J. W. Harrington, a graduate of Columbia College, of New York, who held the position until 1851. During that time the trustees of the institution were D. R. Dunlap, Leroy Springs and J. D. Boyd. Prof. W. D. Johnston conducted the school from 1854 to 1858.

July 26, 1858, the corner stone of the Charlotte Military Academy was laid with impressive ceremonies, participated in by the Masonic fraternity in a body. V. C. Barringer and Ex-Governor Graham were the orators, and a large crowd was present. The building was erected in the southern part of the city, and is now used by the graded school. It was completed in 1859, and in the fall of that year the school was opened by Gen. D. H. Hill, Gen. Jas. H. Lane and Col. C. C. Lee. R. M. McKinney, C. P. Estill, Marshall and Bynum were also teachers before the war.

An advertisement of the Charlotte Female Academy, in 1832, stated that the course of instruction included the common and higher studies, drawing, painting, music, Latin, Greek, French and Italian. Mrs. S. D. Nye Hutchison was in charge of the school from 1836 to 1839, and Miss Sarah Davidson was music teacher. Rev. A. J. Leavenworth was principal in 1840, and Rev. Cyrus Johnston from 1846 to 1853. August 15, 1849, the school opened with Rev. Johnston, Miss Mary Dayton and Miss Josephine C. Kerr as teachers. The building was burned March 26, 1851, and no effort was made to rebuild until two years later. Then bids were received for erecting a brick building three stories high and 92 by 53 feet in size. The work was completed in 1859.

The Charlotte Female Institute was organized and opened during the fall of 1857, with Rev. Robert Burwell and his wife, who had been conducting a school in Hillsboro, in charge. A good building was provided by the people of





DAVIDSON COLLEGE, MAIN BUILDING, 1857.

Charlotte, and the institution was successful. In 1859, the building was enlarged and completed, and the faculty increased by bringing in J. B. Burwell, a son of the principal, graduate of Hampden-Sidney College, and a teacher of experience. Mrs. J. A. Crittenden was teaching a school for girls in Charlotte in 1838 and 1839. There had been for a long time a school in Charlotte at intervals, known as the Female Institute. In 1838, it was being conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Gustavus Spencer, who were considered excellent teachers.

After the close of Liberty Hall, the people of Mecklenburg did not give up their hope of having an institution of higher learning in the county. The subject was much talked about, and at a convention held at Lincolnton in September, 1820, and attended by North Carolina and South Carolina Presbyterians, the first definite move was made. A board of trustees was selected, and later in the year a charter was obtained for Western College. The reason for the proposed school was "that the more western counties in the State are distant from Chapel Hill, which renders it inconvenient for their youth to prosecute their education there." Friends of the University opposed the new school, and the trustees being unable to agree as to the location, and not having much encouragement, abandoned the project in 1824.

Resolutions tending to the establishment of a Presbyterian college were adopted by the Concord Presbytery, at Prospect church, in the Spring of 1835. The object of the movement was for the promotion of liberal learning "preparatory to the Gospel ministry." The committee appointed to carry out the plans included Revs. R. H. Morrison, John Robinson, Stephen Frontis, Samuel Williamson, and Robert Burton, William Lee Davidson, John Phifer and Joseph Young. In the summer of 1836, William Lee Davidson donated a large tract of land for the building site, and preparations were made to begin the work. Subscriptions to the amount of \$30,000 had been secured by Revs. Morrison and P. J. Sparrow. The institution was named Davidson Col-

lege, in honor of General William Davidson, who was killed at Cowan's Ford, about seven miles from the present site, February 1, 1781. The college was opened in March, 1837, with 66 students and the following faculty: Rev. R. H. Morrison, president, Rev. P. J. Sparrow and M. D. Johnston. The Legislature granted the charter December 28, 1838. The manual labor feature was introduced, but proved unsuccessful and was dispensed with after four years' trial. In 1855, Davidson College was placed on a strong financial basis by the bequest of Maxwell Chambers, of Salisbury, which amounted to \$258,000. The institution was prosperous until the beginning of the Civil War. In 1840, Dr. Morrison was succeeded as president by Rev. Samuel Williamson, who served in that capacity until 1854, and was succeeded by Dr. Drury Lane, who continued in office until 1860. It was for a long time customary for the college to hold public examinations semi-annually, at which the exercises consisted of "speaking, both selected and original composition and a debate."

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*Authority:*—Records of the Schools, Official Information and Newspapers.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT FROM 1825 TO 1860.

Population, Wealth and Taxes—Trades and Improvements—Laws and Courts—Newspapers—Mecklenburg's Part in the Mexican War—Smallpox—Fairs and Public Exhibitions—The Census of 1840.

In the first part of the nineteenth century, the country was scantily settled, roads were bad, modes of travel were tedious, and consequently the census taking could not be thorough. Emigration movements often assumed vast proportions and the variability of the slave population would sometimes make the total number of inhabitants at one census much smaller than at a preceding one. Some years nearly all the property was listed and at others only a portion of it. In 1842, Union county was made from portions of Mecklenburg and Anson.

In 1820, the population of Mecklenburg was 16,895; in 1830, it was 20,073; in 1840, 18,273; 1850, 13,814, and in 1860, 17,374. The population in 1825 was about the same as it was in 1860. From 1835 until 1850 there was a great emigration to the West. In 1825, the population of Charlotte was 700, and in 1860, it was 1,336. The census of 1830 disclosed the facts that there were in the county sixty-one unnaturalized foreigners, one white man 105 years old, one white woman 101 years old, and three negroes 100 years old.

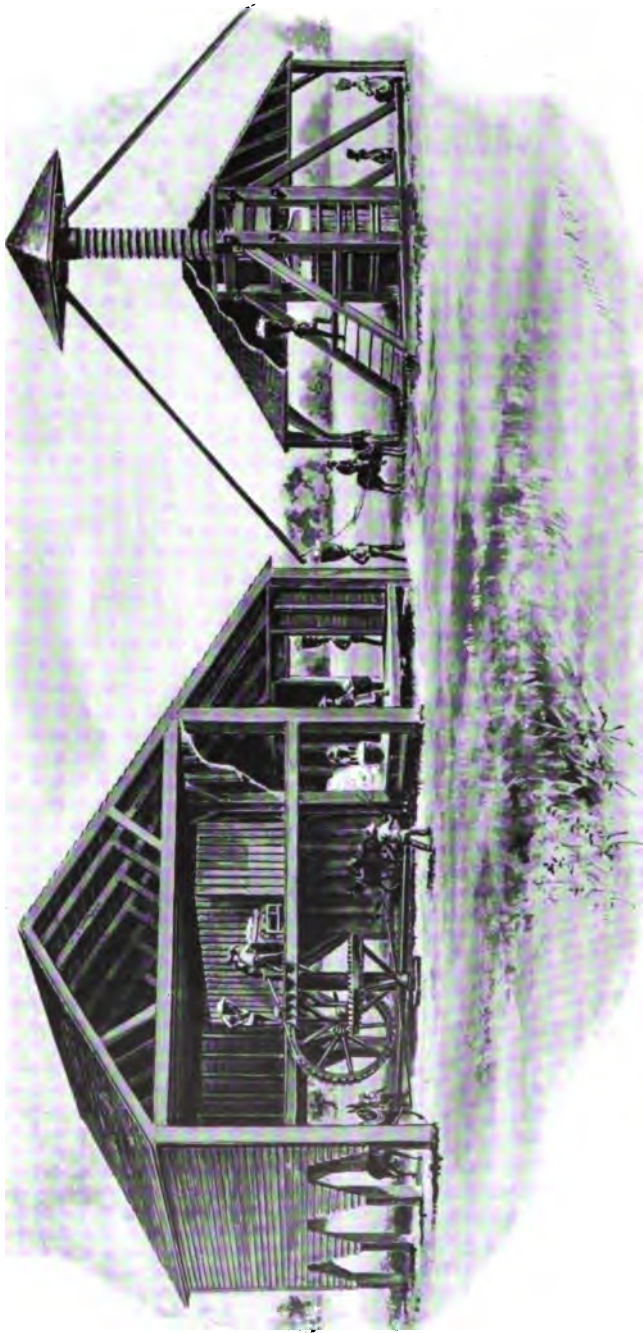
Charlotte did a considerable merchandise business during this period. In 1832, the merchants' tax amounted to \$220 and the peddlers' tax to \$250. The tax on each peddler was \$10.00, so there must have been twenty-five men regularly engaged in that work. They traveled into all portions of the country, and did a good business with the people who lived a long distance from town. Stores were in all parts of

the county, but they were supplied only with the necessities of life; for anything else it was necessary to come to Charlotte. There were a number of grist and flour mills in the county, and a few saw mills which did work for the public. The merchants knew how to advertise, and stores as early as 1840 were selling their "entire stock of goods below cost." There were usually two or three milliners in the town, and they advertised the latest fashions and best work. The newspapers in 1833 announced that "the balloon sleeves are going out of fashion," and a hope was expressed that the same fate would befall the "ladies' big hats, some of which are two or three feet broad."

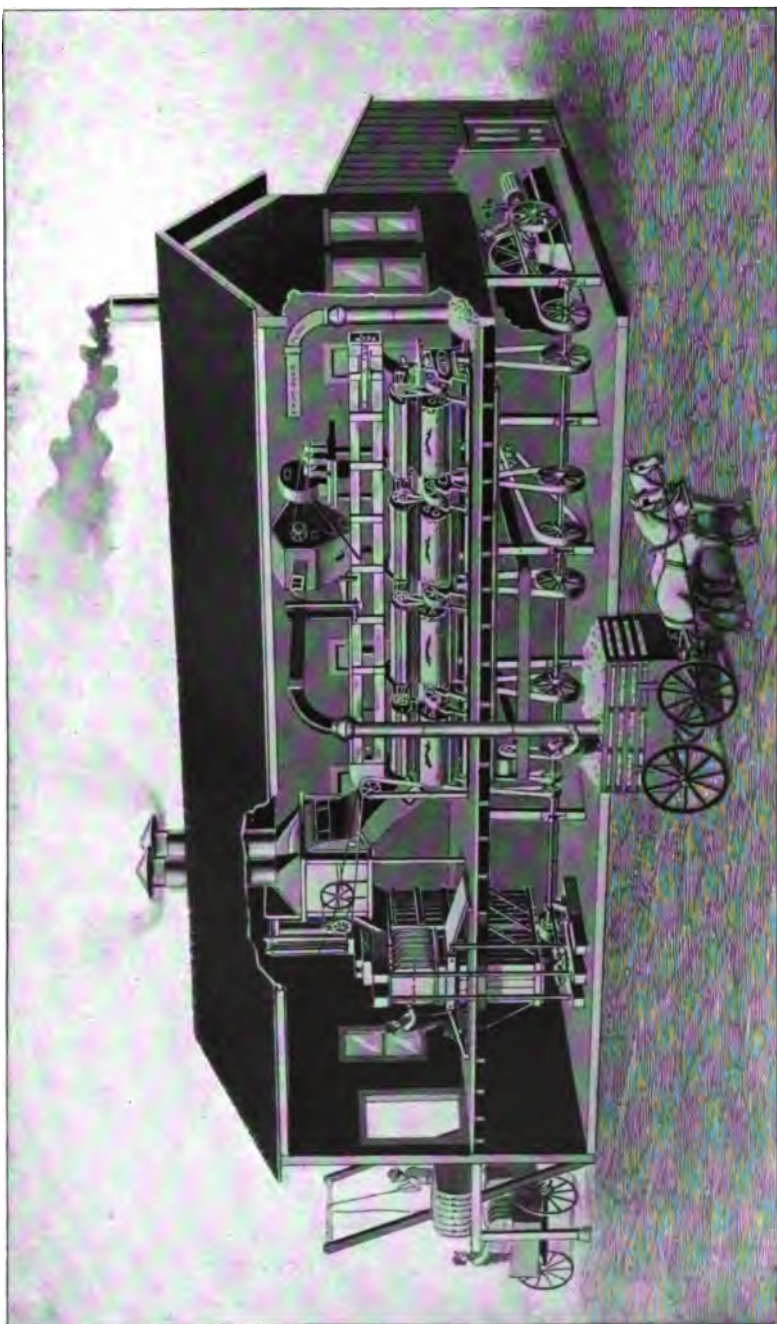
The Mansion House was the chief hostelry in town in 1840, and it and the Charlotte Hotel were popular in 1860. Taverns and saloons were noted places for men to assemble for public discussions of all kinds. Licenses were granted to whiskey dealers, and the traffic became so common that in 1833, an organization of the "Sons of Temperance" was effected. The campaign occasioned some excitement and served to retard the growth of the liquor business, but had little other effect. A saloon keeper advertised that he had just received a fine consignment of liquors and one "special preparation for the members of a certain society in this town," and the liquor men said that the doctors were pushing the temperance movement so they could get to sell all the liquor. In 1842, the Washington Temperance Society of Mecklenburg County was organized with 145 members. In 1853, Burton Craige was elected to Congress over James W. Osborne, and the charge was made during the campaign that Osborne was a "Son of Temperance," but it was not proved. The local election in the same year was also fought on the liquor question, and the "dry" candidate was overwhelmingly defeated.

The county tax in 1826, was thirty cents on the poll and ten cents on each \$100 worth of property, but in 1836, it was reduced to twenty-five cents and eight cents respectively. In addition, there was a "poor" tax ranging from fifteen to





GIN HOUSE AND SCREW.



**MODERN STEAM COTTON GINNERY.**



twenty-five cents on the poll, and from five to ten cents on each \$100 valuation. In May, 1828, commissioners were appointed to build a poor house, and the work was completed in January, 1833, and a man and his wife employed to take charge of it. In 1829, the old court house, which was erected in 1810, was thoroughly overhauled and repaired, and in 1845, a new building was erected on West Trade street. June 1, 1849, J. B. Kerr, the town treasurer, advertised for sealed bids for repairing the "horse racks and the streets in Charlotte." The first fire engine was purchased in 1830, \$100 being paid for it. A regular fire company was kept up, but was very ineffective. In 1858, gas lamps were purchased for the streets and public buildings, at a cost of \$1,015.40. In 1803, William Davidson and William Allison had charge of the Charlotte division of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company. In 1855, the Charlotte Mutual Fire Insurance Company was organized with R. C. Cowan president, John Irwin vice president, J. F. Irwin secretary and treasurer, William Johnston attorney, and W. L. Winston agent.

Whipping posts and stocks remained in use until after the war. The laws were rigidly enforced, and whipping and branding were the usual modes of punishment for minor offenses. Courts were always kept busy while in session, and a number of lawyers lived in the county. Among them were J. C. Spears, F. L. Smith, James H. Wilson, S. J. Lowrie, James W. Osborne, V. C. Barringer, A. F. Brevard, F. H. McDowell, W. J. Keahey and William Johnston. In 1835, Rev. Isaac Grier was elected delegate from Mecklenburg to the constitutional convention over William Lee Davidson, the issue being Davidson's announced intention to propose an amendment allowing Catholics to hold office. In 1834, a town ordinance was in effect making it a misdemeanor, punishable by a \$5.00 fine, to leave wood boxes on the street, to dig sand or dirt from the street or to keep more than one dog. The first election of town officers by the people was held January 17, 1852, when A. Graham was

elected intendant, and six prominent citizens were elected councilmen. Previous to this time, the mayor had been elected by the aldermen.

The dispensation of justice was vested in the county magistrates; a county court presided over by three magistrates, and which met quarterly; and a Superior Court of law and equity, which met twice a year.

In the year 1858, there was snow on the 26th day of April. Snow fell in Atlanta thirteen days before, and on the 15th there was a frost in Mecklenburg. The weather was extremely cold for some time, fires being necessary for comfort until the end of May. April 15, 1849, there had been a similar snow and cold spell, the snow being several inches deep and all the fruit being killed, and in the Spring of 1840, all the fruit was killed by a cold spell. In the Fall of 1858, three comets were reported as being visible, and were objects of much interest to Charlotte people.

Mecklenburg's first newspaper was Holton's *North Carolina Whig*, which was established in 1824. The name was changed to the *Journal* in March, 1832, and back to *Whig* January 26, 1852. Holton remained in charge of it, and from 1852 until 1855, A. C. Williamson was connected with it. June 28, 1834, it appeared in mourning with black ruled columns on account of the death of Lafayette. D. Asbury was one of the editors in 1841.

January 13, 1848, James Fulton succeeded J. W. Hampton as editor of the *Jeffersonian*, and in the next year left to take charge of the *Wilmington Journal*. Samuel C. Crawford edited the *Jeffersonian* in 1844. In 1848, J. L. Badger was connected with the *Journal*, and a year later was publishing the *Hornets' Nest*. The *Hornets' Nest* and the *Journal* were the only papers published in Charlotte in 1850. July 10, 1852, the *Western Democrat* appeared, edited by R. P. Waring, and in 1855, Dr. H. M. Pritchard was editor. In 1854, the *Whig*, *Democrat* and *Wilmington Journal* engaged in a discussion relative to the Independence Monument Association, which was organized in Charlotte several

years previous, and the Charlotte papers said it had been abandoned because some people persisted that the name of a certain Tory should be put on it. May 17, 1859, the *Daily Bulletin* began publication under the management of E. H. Britton & Co.

May 17, 1848, Raymond & Waring's great zoological exhibition appeared in Charlotte, with lions and tigers and a brass band. About the same time, Dr. Shannon advertised that he was in Charlotte for a short time to practice and teach "pathetism," and that the fee for a full course was \$10.00. He announced that he would cure headache, toothache and slight cases of rheumatism free; for curing any chronic disease he was to be paid one year after the cure was effected. In 1847, W. Barth passed through the county practicing "animal magnetism." In March, 1833, "Mr. Prosser, the American Fire King," appeared at the Masonic Hall and exhibited "his power of withstanding high degrees of heat, eating melted lead, blazing sealing wax and live coals." April 28, 1852, Mr. John Vane was in the county teaching people how to detect counterfeit money. Daguerreotype artists often spent several weeks in town and were widely patronized.

Lectures, circuses, shows and exhibitions of all kinds were numerous. The Odd Fellows and Masons generally celebrated on May 20th or July 4th, and the young people held festivities on May day. The Charlotte Jockey Club was the source of much entertainment, and their races, May 1, 1838, were attended by large crowds. At a 4th of July celebration at Providence in that year, a cannon exploded, killing William L. Patton and wounding Jonah Boyes and Hugh Peoples. In October, 1855, the Mecklenburg County Agricultural Society held a fair in Charlotte, and the society was reorganized, and fairs were thereafter held every year until the beginning of the war. May 20, 1848, was the occasion of a large celebration with processions; speeches by Rev. Cyrus Johnston, William S. Harris, of Cabarrus, and Hon. J. W. Ellis; music by the Providence band, and a big dinner.

July 4, 1847, there was a celebration and free barbecue in town. Rev. H. B. Cunningham opened the exercises with prayer, the Declaration of Independence was read by S. Nye Hutchison, James A. Fox delivered the oration, and railroad speeches were made by J. W. Osborne and J. H. Wilson.

North Carolina furnished one regiment of infantry for the Mexican war in 1846, but Mecklenburg had no part in the formation of the regiment. Some of the enterprising patriots volunteered and obtained permission to raise a company of "light horse dragoons." G. W. Caldwell was captain, and E. C. Davidson, J. K. Harrison and A. A. Norman were lieutenants, and D. C. Robinson was a sergeant. They left Charlotte in April, 1847, went to Charleston, and from there to Vera Cruz, where they joined the American forces and engaged in several battles. The Governor of the State at that time was William A. Graham, of Orange county, a son of Gen. Joseph Graham, and it is also worthy of notice that a native of the county, James Knox Polk, was President of the United States.

In November, 1848, a medical society was organized in Charlotte for the purpose of uplifting the profession. In 1850, the smallpox spread throughout the county. In November of that year the doctors published a signed statement declaring that the disease was not smallpox, but in December, Dr. McIlwaine declared that it was smallpox, and demanded that precautions be taken against it. January 3, 1851, a board of health was formed by the authorities and a report was submitted showing that at that time there were 109 cases of the disease in Charlotte, 16 others in the county and that 9 negroes and one white man had died with it. The epidemic continued through 1851, and increased rapidly until the warm weather began. Among the physicians in Charlotte and Mecklenburg from 1830 to 1860, were D. F. Caldwell, C. J. Fox, Pritchard, Taylor, Hutchison, Robert Gibbon, D. R. Williamson, William Parham, J. C. Rudisill, M. O'Reilly, P. C. Caldwell, McIlwaine, J. M. David-



Sept- 16. 1854.

I have today sold to R. M.  
Miller the following negroes  
One lady Mentatto woman  
named Julia £ 925<sup>00</sup>  
Her daughter Jane 650<sup>00</sup>  
Her son Colston 460<sup>00</sup>

Total £ 2035<sup>00</sup>

Payable  $\frac{1}{2}$  cash,  $\frac{1}{4}$  in  
6 mo.  $\frac{1}{4}$  in 1 year,  
deferred payments at  
6% interest.

James Hargrove (L.S.)

Witness

BILL OF SALE.



# Notice!

## *Negroes for Sale.*

On the 18th day of December  
next, at the Plantation of the late *Obedience Dinkins*, dec'd.  
I will offer for sale

**12 likely NEGROES,**

viz: 5 *Men*, 3 *Women*, 2 *Boys*, and 2 *Girls*, a quantity of

**Cotton, Corn and Fodder,**

**1 Horse, 2 Cows and calves,**

**1 Cotton Gin & Gearing,**

**Farming Tools,**

**Household & Kitchen Furniture,**

with other articles not mentioned. The sale will continue  
from day to day, until all are sold. A credit of twelve  
months will be given. Bond and approved security re-  
quired.

**Sam'l. Cox, Executor.**

*White Hall, N. C., Nov. 19, 1838.*

N. B. All persons having claims against the late *Obedience Dinkins*, dec'd., will present them properly attested within the time the law directs, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery.

SAM'L. COX, *Executor.*

NOTICE OF SALE.





son, E. H. Andrews, a dentist, and J. M. Happoldt, an eye specialist and surgeon, at Providence.

The census of 1840 gives full particulars of Charlotte and Mecklenburg at that time. There were in Charlotte 849 persons, of whom 548 were white and 301 were negroes. Among the other things enumerated are twelve stores, one bank agent, three taverns, one tannery, one printing office, one weekly paper, two academies, one common school, two ministers, six lawyers, six doctors, four miners and fifty mechanics. The population in 1830 was 717, and in 1851 it was 1,186. At this latter date the town property was valued at \$122,740, and in addition, the 41,976 acres of land in the militia district was valued at \$162,540. The tax lists also included gold and silver plate worth \$350, thirteen pleasure carriages, eighty-three gold watches, thirty-eight silver watches and twenty-four pianos.

In the whole county were 11,909 white people and 6,841 negroes; 1,692 persons engaged in agriculture, 234 in manufacturing and trades, 49 in commerce, 94 in mining and 58 in learned professions. One hundred and eighty-seven white persons more than twenty years of age could not read or write. One college had 81 students, 5 academies had 185 and 25 common schools had 475. Only twenty-four pensioners lived in the county. There were 9 tanneries, 15 distilleries, 15 gold mines, 1 carriage factory, 11 flour mills, 23 grist mills, 32 saw mills and 32 stores. In 1850, the county contained 712 town lots, valued at \$124,345, and 289,522 acres of land valued at \$1,059,968. The total tax was 70 cents on the poll and 30 cents on each \$100 valuation of property.

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*Authority:*—Newspapers, County Records, and Census Reports.

## CHAPTER XXV.

### RAILROADS AND INDUSTRIES FROM 1830 TO 1860.

Realization of Necessity for Better Means of Travel and Commerce.  
—Work on the Catawba River—Railroad Agitation in 1833—The  
Old Stage Coach—First Passenger Train in 1852—County Road  
Commissioners—Varied Industries.

Many years before the war, the people of Mecklenburg were beginning to realize the importance of diversified industries. The agitation for the proposed railroads and the excitement attendant upon the construction of them, acted as awakening influences. Discovery of gold was an important factor, and much interest was manifested in the establishment of the mint. The great improvement of cotton mill machinery also had its influence. The primary reason, and perhaps the most important one, was that the country was divided into a comparatively small number of landed estates; there were no farms for sale, and hence the new population was forced to give attention to something besides agriculture. An industrial crisis was imminent, and the problem would have solved itself by natural agencies within a few more years, had not sectional differences brought on the war.

As early as 1797, there was legislation for the purpose of rendering the Catawba river navigable. In 1801, a stock company, at the head of which was Waightstill Avery, was formed under the provisions of this law. The capital stock of the company was \$15,000, and the income was to be derived from tolls on the river trade. In 1809, the Legislature passed an act allowing a lottery to raise five thousand dollars to aid in the enterprise. In 1817, a resolution was passed relative to a proposed canal to connect Rocky river and the Catawba. The Catawba Navigation Company, in 1829, was given five more years in which to complete the

work. As population increased and the necessity for a better mode of transportation became apparent, the Mecklenburg people gave more thought than ever to the river navigation, but about then the railroad talk began, and that at once commanded the attention.

October 7, 1833, a public meeting for the discussion of internal improvements was held in the court house and delegates were appointed to a railroad meeting in Salisbury. At a convention held in Salisbury, October 10, 1836, Mecklenburg and eighteen other counties were represented by a total number of 131 delegates. Resolutions were adopted asking the Legislature to aid in the building of railroads, which was of so great importance to the western counties. About the same time, Mecklenburg sent three representatives to the Knoxville railroad convention, which met to consider the advantages to be secured by building the Charleston and Cincinnati railroad. It was agreed that "It will form a bond of union among the States which will give safety to our property and security to our institutions." Similar conventions were held at short intervals in Charlotte, Salisbury, Knoxville and other interested cities for a number of years.

A regular organization for the promotion of improvements was kept up in Charlotte after 1845, and the committee of correspondence included the best men of the county. April 27, 1847, a railroad meeting was held to take definite action regarding the railroad to Columbia. It was stated that the road would not be built to Charlotte unless a sufficient amount of stock was subscribed by Charlotte people. The work of securing subscriptions was begun at once, and in May, 1849, the contract was made for the grading of the road, which was to be completed by January 1, 1851.

Previous to the advent of the railroad, the public means of travel was the stage coach. There was usually only one trip made each way every week, but on some of the more popular routes, two trips were made. The arrival and departure of the stages were, ordinarily, the chief events of interest. People living on the line from Fayetteville through

Charlotte to Lincolnton, received mail twice a week, it being carried in four-horse coaches. There were other routes from Wilkesboro to Charlotte, Greensboro through Salisbury to Charlotte and on to Yorkville, S. C., and from Charlotte to Camden and Columbia. Mail was not of much importance, as people rarely expected to receive any. In 1831, the Charlotte postmaster advertised eighty letters that had not been called for, some of them addressed to people living in the town. The high rate of postage, and the fact that it had to be paid by the ones who received the mail, probably had something to do with the condition.

The first goods by freight over the road to Charlotte was received by a merchant October 6, 1852, though the track had not then been completed into town. October 21, 1852, the arrival of the first passenger train was greeted with a tremendous celebration. Crowds came from Columbia, Chester, Winnsboro, and the surrounding country, and the newspapers stated that twenty thousand people were present. The Columbia band furnished the music, and John A. Young was chief marshal. Gen. Young made the address of welcome in behalf of Charlotte, and James W. Osborne for North Carolina, and President Palmer, of the railroad, responded to the addresses, and he was followed by Ex-President Goldsden and John W. Ellis. The barbecue was given on the grounds of the Female Academy, and at night there was a dance and a display of fireworks. C. Banknight was the first railroad agent in this city, and, November 3, 1852, he advertised daily passenger trains between Columbia and Charlotte.

In 1856, the road from Goldsboro to Charlotte was completed. Until that time, the Democratic party had opposed State aid to internal improvements, and many persons openly proclaimed that the whole movement was impractical and would eventually fail. Gradually everyone was brought to realize the importance of the innovation, and then there was no further objection to State aid, and the system was extended rapidly. A large number of roads were chartered

between 1840 and 1860, but many of them were never carried any further. The two roads put Charlotte into connection with the North and South, and drew the attention of the county to inter-state commerce. It was quite evident that the cultivation of agricultural products was not sufficient for the maintenance of an increasing population, and there was much said and written about the value of manufacturing cotton and wool.

Daniel Alexander announced, July 16, 1833, that he had removed his wool carding machine to his lower mill, on Mallard creek, where he would card wool for six and one-quarter cents a pound. Three years previously, Z. H. Bissell was engaged in rope making at the St. Catherine mine. In 1839, W. H. Neel was conducting the Sugar creek mills, five miles southwest of Charlotte, and was also carding wool. Wilson Parks was running a wool carding machine on McAlpin's creek, eight miles below Charlotte, in 1842. The Rock Island Factory began operations in February, 1849, and in April, 1852, was working two sets of cards, 480 spindles and thirty looms. At this factory, black and gray cassimeres were made, some of which were being sold in Wilmington, in February, 1851, for 87½ cents a yard. Tweeds, jeans and kerseys were also made, and wool was bought at 25 cents a pound. November 14, 1854, steam power was used for the first time in Leroy Springs' mill, which had a capacity of two hundred bushels of flour a day. This was the first steam engine used in Charlotte. Feathers were generally used for beds and pillows, and in 1838, a patent feather renovator was in operation in Charlotte. The Charlotte Gas Light Company was chartered and began supplying gas for lighting purposes in 1858. At that time, W. D. Pinckney & Co. were manufacturing hydraulic presses and other machinery; P. Savers was a local architect and civil engineer; J. D. Palmer was manufacturing candy, and Alexander & McDougal were operating the Charlotte machine shops.

In 1778, there was a regularly organized board of road

commissioners in Mecklenburg. The county was divided into thirty-eight sections, over each of which was a superintendent. Before 1810, the commissioners, at their meeting, had many petitions for roads and bridges to consider. The Salisbury and Camden road was the first one in the county, but even before the Revolution, efforts had been made to have others surveyed. The Legislature, in 1817, provided for a road to be surveyed and opened from Fayetteville, through Mecklenburg to Morganton. In the next year, Thomas G. Polk and others were authorized to lay off and open a road from Milton, in Caswell county, to Salisbury, Charlotte and the South Carolina line. In 1825, all white men between the ages of 18 and 45, and all negroes between the ages of 16 and 50, were required to work the public roads. The county court, in May, 1827, appropriated two hundred dollars for a complete survey of the county roads, bridges, water courses, hills, towns, villages, factories and other details. This work was done by Joab Alexander, Thomas G. Polk and William Lee Davidson. In 1830, there were twenty-five public roads in the county, and when the railroad agitation began, there was much talk of plank roads to connect the railroad stations with the country. In 1849, a plank road from Charlotte to Lincolnton was proposed. In 1851, the road to Taylorsville was begun, and several others were planned and some of them were built.

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*Authority:*—State and County Records and Newspapers.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

### MINING AND THE MINT BEFORE 1860.

Discovery of Gold in 1790—First Attempt at Mining in 1825—Foreign Investors Take Active Interest—Most Noted Mines and Their Productions—Mint Established in Charlotte in 1837, and Its Record Since.

In 1790, a little son of Conrad Reed, who lived in what is now Cabarrus county, found a large nugget of gold at a place afterwards known as Reed's mine. Soon thereafter, some nuggets were found near Rozzel's Ferry, in Mecklenburg. For twenty years after the discovery of gold, the people did not know of its true value. It was used chiefly for lining the powder holes in rifles, as it would not rust, and though a considerable quantity was found, it was not put to any more practical use. All of it was known as "branch gold," being picked up, for the most part, in creeks.

The first attempt to follow a gold vein was made by Samuel McComb, on his land near Charlotte, in 1825. He operated the mine for several years, and then disposed of it to a mining company. Gold mining machinery was scarce and ineffective, and as a consequence, the development of the industry was slow. The McComb mine was later known as the old Charlotte mine, and still later as the St. Catherine mine, and is located one mile west of the city. It was well equipped for that period, and was considered prosperous for a number of years. Capp's mine was being worked in 1826, and is located five and one-half miles from Charlotte.

In 1830, Chevalier Rivafanoli, an Italian and an agent for a London mining company, arrived in Charlotte to engage in mining. He brought with him several foreigners, who were experienced miners, and he leased the property owned by Bissell & Baker. He possessed considerable capital, and his ventures met with success. About the same

time, some northerners came to this section and also took an interest in the search for gold. Immigrants to Mecklenburg were numerous for several years, until the discovery of gold in California in 1847, when the tide of immigration turned the other way.

Some of the newspapers expressed a fear that the mining would have an injurious effect upon agriculture, and would encourage idleness as the natural result of easily secured wealth. On the contrary, it was a stimulus and encouragement to all industrial pursuits. There was an increase of trade and of employment for mechanics, new buildings were erected and all the vacant ones were filled, and as a consequence of the new inhabitants and the temporary speculations, the circulation of money was more general. Value of property increased all over the county, and those who did not wish to sell their lands and buildings, could easily rent or lease them on good terms.

Capp's mine, in 1830, represented an investment of \$20,000. The weekly product of gold averaged eight hundred pennyweight, and the weekly expenses amounted to \$125. Thirty-eight negroes were employed to do the hardest work. A fourteen horse-power steam engine was used to pump the water from a ninety foot shaft, and it also furnished power for two mills for grinding ore. On Mallard creek, six miles from the mine, were four grinding mills and eighteen pounders, all operated by water power.

The Dunn mine and Rudisill's mine were worked from an early period, and a large number were opened in various parts of the county, most of them being abandoned after a few years. Dunn's mine was first worked by Dr. Samuel Henderson, who was called "the gold pioneer." In 1831, the property was transferred to Fanoli. The cradle and sluice were the only means of recovering gold for many years. Crushing machinery was in use in 1830, and the first stamp in the county was put up at St. Catherine's mine in 1840. This was the work of J. Humphrey Bissell, whose services to the county and to the science of mining were val-

uable. Among the others who helped to build up the industry were Thomas Penman, Dr. Daniel Asbury, Commodore Stockton and Admiral Wilkes. In 1843, J. Gibson took out a patent for a location on Catawba river, remarking that he cared nothing for the water, but was after the gold in the sand at the bottom. The sand was scooped up with long-handled shovels by men on a float.

March 28, 1834, John Harrison gave to J. B. S. Harris a receipt for \$188.12 "for the building of a gold machine." In 1833 and 1834, the Legislature incorporated the Washington, Franklin, Mt. Island, Mecklenburg, North Carolina, Hope, Campbell's Creek, American, and Claremont gold mining companies in Mecklenburg county. The list of incorporators includes nearly all of the leading citizens of the county at that time. There were ten mines in operation in the county in 1850.

W. Morrison was local agent for the Bank of Newbern in 1830, and in January, 1832, a meeting was held in Charlotte to discuss plans for securing a branch of the United States Bank, but the effort was unsuccessful. In 1834, a branch of the North Carolina Bank was secured. Previously there had been so little money in circulation that there was no need for a bank. The gold mining ventures caused an increase in the circulation, and the new citizens agitated the matter until the agency of the State Bank was established. Thomas J. Hogg, of Raleigh, was agent for the bank in 1855, J. J. Blackwood in 1842, W. A. Lucas in 1852, and Thomas W. Dewey in 1853. In 1852, H. B. Williams was local agent for the Bank of Camden. April 19, 1853, the Bank of Charlotte was organized, with an authorized capital of \$300,000, divided into shares of \$50 each. H. B. Williams was president, W. A. Lucas cashier, and the board of directors consisted of T. H. Brem, J. H. Wilson, D. Parks, S. P. Alexander, A. C. Steele, W. R. Myers, and H. B. Williams. Most of the money used was State bills, and they were generally discounted.

From the time gold was first mined in the county, there

was a demand for a branch of the United States mint in Charlotte, by counties in this section both in North and South Carolina. In 1830, the North Carolina General Assembly appointed a special committee, under the chairmanship of Gideon Glenn, to investigate the subject. Their report stated that the annual production of gold in the State amounted to \$500,000, at a cost of \$150,000, and recommended the establishment of a mint. Acting upon this recommendation, the United States Congress appropriated \$50,000 for the purpose, March 3, 1835. The corner stone was laid with impressive ceremonies January 8, 1836, and the mint was opened December 4, 1837, and did a large amount of business from the start.

Col. John H. Wheeler was the first superintendent, and he was succeeded in 1841 by B. S. Gaither. Green W. Caldwell was appointed to the position in 1844, and resigned two years later to volunteer for the Mexican war. He was succeeded by J. W. Alexander, who served until 1849. James W. Osborne was appointed in 1849, and held the position until G. W. Caldwell was reappointed in 1853. Dr. John H. Gibbon was assayer during the whole period preceding the war. The mint was burned in July, 1844, and most of the machinery was thereby ruined. D. M. Barringer, representative in Congress, secured the passage of a bill appropriating \$25,000 for rebuilding, in February, 1845. Superintendent Caldwell received instructions regarding the proposed work on the 18th of April, and within three days had contracted with H. C. Owen to do the work for \$20,000, thus saving \$5,000 for the government. The mint, during the first year of its existence, coined gold to the amount of \$84,165, the expenses being \$17,466, and bullion being received to the amount of \$131,698. This gradually increased until 1849, when the bullion value was \$390,731, and the coinage was \$361,229.

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*Authority:*—Records on File in the United States Mint, Newspapers and County Records.

## CHAPTER XXVII.

### SLAVERY, POLITICS AND SECESSION. (1825 to 1861.)

Dividing Issues Discussed—Customs Regarding Slaves—Political  
Animosity—Mecklenburg Strongly Southern in Feeling—County  
Declares for Secession Twenty Days Before South Carolina.  
—North Carolina Secedes.

The Missouri compromise, which divided the nation into a slavery and a non-slavery section, was effected in 1820. The administration of James Madison, from 1817 to 1825, has gone into history as the era of good feeling, but it was only a calm before the storm. By the time it ended, the term "abolitionist" was being applied to certain inhabitants of "free" States, who were clamoring for the suppression of the slavery system. The North was not directly concerned in the industry which was the chief source of wealth to the South, and to the continuance of which the negro was considered essential. Hence, it was quite natural that the two sections should have different opinions on the subject.

According to the laws of 1826, the time for selling and hiring slaves was the first day of the Superior Court, which met twice a year. The Legislature of the same year made it illegal for free negroes to come into the State. At that time, there were 1,500 negroes in the county, not counting the few free ones. Several persons owned as many as twenty-five slaves, and 80 persons owned more than six each. The highest price received for one at sale in that year was \$568, and the value ranged from that down to \$100 for a small boy. In 1850, there were 678 slave owners in the county, and they owned 2,713 slaves, and 155 men owned as many as six each.

Hiring slaves and the custom of employing overseers gave rise to much trouble. Few overseers were employed in this county, but the practice of hiring out the negroes was

common. Such a contract usually stipulated that the lessee should "control the negroes as if owner" for one year, and that he should provide them with articles of clothing, which were mentioned. He was also required to protect their health and strength, and to otherwise care for them.

August 8, 1859, three negroes who belonged to J. H. and W. E. White, discovered that the railroad bridge across the Catawba had been damaged by a storm, and succeeded in stopping the train and thereby saving many lives. They were liberally rewarded by the passengers for this act.

A special tax of 25 cents was levied on each negro to pay the expenses of the patrollers. The value of slaves increased rapidly, and in 1841, Leroy Springs sold a negro shoemaker to Samuel A. Harris for \$1,500. By that time, the free negroes were causing trouble by inciting the slaves to run away. September 20, 1852, a public meeting in Charlotte was largely attended to determine what steps should be taken in regard to these matters.

October 25, 1830, an editorial in the *Charlotte Journal* called attention to the state of affairs wherein talk about dissolution of the Union had become so common as not to excite horror, as it once did. The readers were counseled that such things should not be. May 8, 1832, another editorial mentioned the evil effect of "treating" at elections, and said it should be prohibited. Until the secession talk began, the Whigs and Democrats were about evenly matched, but after that, the Democrats led easily, because all Whig secessionists voted with them. The presidential campaign of 1848 was fought on the slavery issue, with particular reference to its exclusion from Texas, and Zachary Taylor, the Whig candidate, was elected, and received a majority in Mecklenburg county, but the county was otherwise Democratic. In the next year, G. W. Caldwell was elected to Congress as an Independent candidate. In 1852, Franklin Pierce, Democrat, was elected President, and Reid, for Governor, received in the county 1,421 votes, to his opponents's 731. Pierce was succeeded by Buchanan, also a Democrat. August 5,

1855, a public meeting was held in Charlotte to discuss the issues of the day, and the idea of secession was popular, though some questioned its expediency and advised against talking of it. There were 1,280 voters in Mecklenburg in 1856, the creation of Union county having reduced the number from more than two thousand.

In 1835, the State Legislature passed resolutions, in view of the proceedings of abolitionists in the Eastern and Middle States, defining the position of North Carolina on the negro question. It was claimed that the States had the sole right to regulate slavery, and that the constitution delegated no such authority to the Federal government. Congress was petitioned to restrict the circulation of incendiary abolitionist literature in the South, and to prevent the abolitionists from stirring up strife.

Gradually the sectional slavery issue became a political issue, and this made the feeling more bitter and more open. The State Democratic convention in 1858 convened in Charlotte, and 477 delegates were present, representing 77 counties. Hon. J. W. Ellis, of Rowan, was nominated for Governor, and was elected in August by 12,000 majority, receiving 553 majority in Mecklenburg. At the same time, W. F. Davidson was elected to the State Senate, and Dr. H. M. Pritchard and M. W. Wallace to the House of Representatives. William J. Yates was appointed a member of the Governor's Council. Governor Ellis was re-elected in 1860; John Walker was elected Senator, and S. W. Davis and J. W. Potts Representatives.

In the presidential campaign of 1860, there were four candidates—Breckinridge, Bell, Lincoln and Douglass. The vote in Mecklenburg was: Breckinridge, 1,101; Bell, 826; and Douglass, 135. The *Charlotte Whig* said that the "Union" party in this section had "gone up higher than a kite." The feeling was strong, as it was generally believed that Lincoln's platform and speeches made it clear that the rights of the South would be ignored. J. E. Herrick, a northerner, was in Charlotte in November, 1860, and it

being reported that he had "a touch of abolitionism," he was politely advised to depart from the county.

December 1, 1860, there was held in the court house a public meeting which has but one equal in the history of the county—May 20, 1775. A tremendous crowd was in attendance, the best men coming from every section. James B. Robinson, of Providence, was chairman, and John E. Brown and M. L. Wallace were secretaries. Speeches were made by A. C. Williamson, S. J. Lowrie, W. Kerr, Gen. Young, J. H. Wilson and others. Major Hill and Lieutenant Lee were called upon for speeches and declined, saying they were ready to act, but not to talk. A committee of eleven reported resolutions declaring that the election of Lincoln predicated the subversion of the constitution, and that there should be a State convention to consider what action was necessary. S. W. Davis presented the petition to the General Assembly December 5th. South Carolina seceded December 20th.

January 30, 1861, the Legislature ordered an election to be held February 28th to elect delegates to the convention, and at the same time to determine whether or not there should be a convention. A public meeting, February 9th, nominated James W. Osborne and William Johnson as delegates. The election in the State went against the proposed convention by a small majority, but Mecklenburg's position was clearly presented by the vote, which showed only seven votes in Charlotte and 252 in the whole county against the convention.

Public meetings were frequent, and a State mass meeting in Goldsboro, February 22d and 23d, was largely attended by Mecklenburg people. The assembly adjourned to meet in Charlotte May 20th, and elaborate preparations were made for the event, but it was forestalled by Lincoln's requisition on Gov. Ellis for troops. The Governor at once called the Legislature in special session, and it ordered a convention to convene May 20th. Osborne and Johnson

represented Mecklenburg, and on the first day of the proceedings, the ordinance of secession was passed by a unanimous vote.

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*Authority*:—State and County Records and Newspapers.

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

### CIVIL WAR. (1861 to 1865.)

**Mecklenburg Soldiers Among the First to Volunteer—Were Prominent in the Formation of the First or "Bethel" Regiment—Distinguished Officers From Mecklenburg—Conditions in the County During the War—Last Meeting of Confederate Cabinet Held in Charlotte.**

Early in 1861, the drilling of soldiers began in Mecklenburg county. There were frequent musters and parades and exhibitions by the military companies. Fort Sumter, in South Carolina, was surrendered by the Federal forces to the State April 12th, and at that time seven States had seceded. Eight days later, the United States mint in Charlotte was seized and occupied by the local militia, under the command of Col. J. Y. Bryce. Just one month later, on the eighty-sixth anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, the State of North Carolina dissolved the bonds which bound her to the Federal Union.

Mecklenburg county was ready for the crisis, and took a remarkably prominent stand at the very first of the trouble. The Legislature, which met in Raleigh May 1st, provided for the Governor to raise ten regiments of troops for the State. At that time, North Carolina had not decided what stand to take, but as the states north and south of her had seceded, she realized the necessity of being prepared for any emergency, and when President Lincoln's requisition for troops came, the State was ready to cast her lot with the sister commonwealths in the common cause. William Johnson, of Mecklenburg, was appointed commissary-general for the State, and though he held the position but a short time, he did valuable service by his prompt and energetic work.

The entire history of the Civil War does not include a

nobler example of valor and patriotism and efficiency than the First North Carolina Volunteers, commonly known as the "Bethel Regiment," and Mecklenburg county has just cause to feel proud of its remarkable record. The Charlotte Grays (Company C), and the Hornets' Nest Rifles (Company B), were among the first to be mustered into the service of the State. The two companies left Charlotte April 16th, and the occasion of their departure was made memorable by a hearty celebration, and flags were presented to the young captains, E. A. Pass and L. S. Williams, by the young ladies of the county. The faculty and cadets of the Charlotte Military School were all taken to Raleigh to drill the troops, and the regiment was organized in Raleigh by successive orders dating from April 19th to May 16th. D. H. Hill was colonel, Charles C. Lee lieutenant-colonel, James H. Lane major, Rev. E. A. Yates chaplain, all these men going from Charlotte. Three of the companies were in Richmond May 18th, and the other seven arrived three days later, and within the succeeding twenty days they fought and won a battle, and a member of the Edgecombe company shed the first blood for the Confederacy.

The personnel and equipment and general efficiency of the regiment occasioned the highest praise, and the Virginia papers united in the opinion that it was the equal, if not the superior, of any in the nation. It included the best military ability of the State, and its accoutrements were all that any body of troops could desire. The battle of Bethel was fought June 6th. The total number of Confederate troops engaged was 1,408, and 800 of them were members of the First North Carolina Regiment, the others being Virginians. A victory was won over the 4,400 Federal troops, and in the fighting, the two Charlotte companies bore conspicuous parts and were complimented for bravery and discipline. September 3d, Col. Hill was made a brigadier-general, and Lieutenant-Colonel Lee was elected colonel. September 21, Lieutenant-Colonel Lane became colonel of the Twenty-eighth regiment, then being organized at High Point.

October 12th, the "Bethel" regiment was mustered out of service, and reorganized later at High Point as the Eleventh regiment, in which the Mecklenburg men were honored by promotion.

Mecklenburg county furnished one company for the first regiment of artillery, and one for the first regiment of cavalry, known respectively as the Ninth and Tenth North Carolina regiments. Both companies were organized in May, the first by Captain Thomas H. Brem, and the other by Captain J. M. Miller. The Ninth regiment was engaged in one hundred and fifty battles during the war, and the Tenth also took an active part. In these first days of the war, the ladies of the county did their duty as nobly as did the men, and they took as much interest in the conflict. They made clothes and sent provisions of all kinds for the soldiers. During the month of June, the "Jewess ladies" of the town raised \$150 to assist the volunteers, and every one did all that could be done.

In the election of 1860, 2,062 votes were cast in Mecklenburg; and between 1860 and 1865, the county furnished for the Confederacy twenty-one companies, which, with recruits, included 2,713 soldiers. Besides these, there were many who joined other commands as privates or officers. The students of the Military Academy were made drill masters, and nearly all of them became officers. Col. Hill was a lieutenant-general at the close of the war, and J. H. Lane was a brigadier-general. Col. C. C. Lee, of the Thirty-seventh North Carolina regiment, was killed at Frazier's Farm, in Virginia, June 30, 1862.

Col. R. M. McKinney, of the Fifteenth, was killed near Yorktown, April 16, 1862. Major E. A. Ross was killed at Gettysburg, July 1, 1863. Hamilton C. Jones was lieutenant colonel of the 57th, which was organized at Salisbury July 6, 1862, and he became colonel of the regiment in 1865; was at the battle of Gettysburg and other important engagements, and served throughout the war. Colonel William A. Owens, who left Charlotte as lieutenant of the Hornets' Nest Rifles,

was killed at Snicker's Ford, Va., in August, 1865. Lieut. Gen. Leonidas Polk was a grandson of Thomas Polk of revolutionary fame.

At a public mass meeting held in the Mecklenburg court house, August 29, 1863, the administrations of Governor Vance and President Davis were endorsed by a unanimous vote. The public spirit was active, and when Gen. John H. Morgan passed through the city, December 24, 1863, the citizens of Charlotte raised \$4,000 to aid him in equipping a new cavalry force. January 13, 1864, Captain Raphael Semmes delivered an address in the court house, and was enthusiastically received.

Gen. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House, Va., April 9, 1865. Johnston surrendered to Sherman near Durham, April 26. Sherman had occupied Raleigh April 13, and Fort Fisher surrendered April 15. President Davis and the Confederate cabinet, accompanied by a thousand cavalry, arrived in Charlotte late in the evening of April 15. Mr. Davis proceeded to the home of Mr. Bates, at the corner of Fourth and Tryon streets, and there made a short talk to the crowd which had assembled. Before entering the house, a telegram was handed to him, and as he read it, he exclaimed, "Can this be true? This is dreadful. It is horrible. Can it really be true?" He then handed the message to Col. Wm. Johnston, who read it and announced to the crowd the first news which had been received in Charlotte of the assassination of President Lincoln.

The Confederate officials were hospitably entertained during their stay in the city. The official headquarters were in the building now occupied by the *Charlotte Observer*, and President Davis' private room is now the office of the chief editor. The last meeting of the cabinet was held at the residence of Mr. William Phifer, on the morning of April 20, and immediately thereafter the cabinet and the cavalry departed from Charlotte. Gov. Vance held a consultation with the President in Charlotte, April 16, but nothing of importance was accomplished. A cast-iron slab marks

the spot where the President was standing when the news of Lincoln's assassination reached him. At the close of the war, the Charlotte hospital, under the direction of Dr. Ashby and Rev. F. M. Kennedy, contained twelve hundred sick and wounded soldiers.

July 7, 1863, the General Assembly provided for mobilizing a "Guard for Home Defense," which came to be known as the Home Guard. All able-bodied men between the ages of 18 and 50, who were exempt from Confederate service, were enrolled, except a few stated exceptions. The whole number in North Carolina was 12,500, and each county was commanded by a major if it contained less than five companies, and by a lieutenant-colonel if it contained more than that number. Lieutenant-Colonel T. H. Brem commanded the Guard in Mecklenburg, and did much good in protecting the country from marauders, in enforcing the conscript law and in capturing deserters.

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*Authority:*—Clark's Regimental Histories, County Records and Newspapers.

## CHAPTER XXIX.

### RECONSTRUCTION. (1865 to 1875.)

**Mecklenburg Escaped the Worst Evils of Those Days—Federal Officers and Troops in Charlotte—Editor Waring Indicted for Espousing the Southern Cause—Conduct of the Negroes Comparatively Peaceable—Elections in the County.**

In June, 1865, Col. Willard Warner, with the 180th Ohio regiment, took charge of the city of Charlotte, and Capts. N. Haight and Andrew Smith were appointed provost marshals. July 1, Gov. Holden appointed Dr. H. M. Pritchard mayor. These summary changes of government were without even a semblance of justification, and the good spirit in which they were received was sufficient evidence of their uselessness. A few days later, Brigadier-General Thomas succeeded Major-General Ruger in command of the Twenty-third corps of the First division with headquarters in Charlotte, and he reviewed the troops, which numbered four thousand.

General Thomas was popular and preserved good order. The sale of liquor was prohibited, and a request was made that all crimes should be promptly reported to the military authorities. All men doing business of any kind were required to take the iron-clad oath. This resulted in the suspension of all industries, as no one who had aided the Confederacy could take the oath. Another obnoxious order was that all arms and ammunition should be surrendered to the Federal authorities. There was, of course, much miscellaneous stealing and petty misdemeanors, but there was no clash between the citizens and soldiers nor between the citizens and the idle negroes. There was said to be in the county a regular band of thieves, who stole horses, cows, and anything else which they could secure. The band was composed chiefly of negroes, but was led by white men.

Some of the stealing was attributed to the soldiers, but not proved.

Col. Warner, who was afterwards a United States Senator from Alabama, was succeeded as commander of the post by Col. J. C. McQuiston with the 123d Indiana regiment, and in August he was succeeded by Col. C. S. Parrish who issued an order that no citizen's clothing should be given or sold to the Federal troops. In January, 1866, S. A. Harris was elected mayor of Charlotte, but he was under the supervision of the military commander. July 4, 1865, was appropriately celebrated. Col. Packard, of the 128th Indiana regiment, delivered a very proper address, Gen. Thomas read the Declaration of Independence, and the military band played Yankee Doodle and Dixie.

In the election in November, 1865, the Democrats, or Conservatives, carried Mecklenburg county by a vote of 534 to 353, and Charlotte by a vote of 277 to 120. Prof. A. McIver and T. N. Alexander were elected delegates to the constitutional convention. Most of the troops had been removed from the city at that time, and Capt. Frank M. Henton, with one company, was in command in December. Christmas day, Editor R. P. Waring, of the *Charlotte Daily Times*, was arrested and taken to Raleigh on a charge of treason, which consisted in vigorous editorial denunciation of the "carpet baggers." He was tried by court-martial and was fined \$300. The vote on the constitution, which was submitted to the people in August, 1866, was 277 to 114 in the county, and 20 to 51 in the city, in favor of ratification. In the October following, Worth, the Democratic candidate for Governor, carried the county by a vote of 334 to 11.

Captain H. M. Lazelle commanded the troops in Charlotte from April to December 18, 1867, at which time the troops left the city. On the occasion of their departure, Mayor Harris presented the captain with a resolution adopted by the board of aldermen, thanking the soldiers for good behavior and expressing regret at their leaving.

The captain acknowledged the courteous act with a pleasant note in which he declared his gratitude for the hospitality of the people of Mecklenburg. Sergeant Bates, of the United States army, on his trip from Washington to Vicksburg as a test that he could carry the national flag through the South without molestation, passed through Charlotte March 26, 1868, and was met by officials, escorted into the city in a procession, and cordially entertained during his short visit.

Negroes in the county were generally idle, and it was not unusual for five hundred to congregate in the town. Out of such a condition arose many crimes of small degree, and a few of the vilest nature, but there was no open disturbance or disorder. Hangings were unusually frequent, but there were not more than ten in the ten years following the close of the war. Some criminals were summarily punished, but both the hangings and lynchings were regardless of race, color or previous condition of servitude. The Union League was organized and parades were common, but the white people ignored such things. Negroes manifested interest in politics for a while, but quit it when they found they would not get the "forty acres and a mule." Two of the three delegates to the Republican State convention in 1867 were negroes. At the subsequent election, an old colored man came into town to vote, but when he was unable to get anything for it, he refused to vote at all, and said he was going back home to work. The Ku-Klux played no part in Mecklenburg affairs, and though there were a few members in this section, there was not an organization in the county.

For the election of delegates to the constitutional convention, November, 1867, the registration in the county was 1,668 whites and 1,645 blacks; in the city, 566 whites and 726 blacks. Of the 1,645 blacks in the county, only 764 were listed for taxation. The vote was in favor of a convention by a majority of 1,538, and the Republican candidates, E. Fullings and S. N. Stillwell, were elected by a vote of 790 to 520, which was the only time during the period that the

county went Republican. April 16, 1868, on the eve of election, Major H. M. Lazelle and a company of troops arrived in Charlotte very unexpectedly. The election resulted in a majority of 220 against the "Canby" constitution, and in favor of the Democratic candidates, J. W. Osborne for the Senate and R. D. Whitley and W. W. Grier for the House of Representatives. The Legislature, in which the Mecklenburg representatives and their Democratic friends were in a hopeless minority, assembled July 1, 1868, and during the session made appropriations amounting to \$26,970,000.

In July, 1868, Governor Holden, without explanation, appointed a mayor and board of aldermen for Charlotte. E. H. Bissell was mayor during August, and he was succeeded by Pritchard and he by Bissell again December 1. January 4, 1869, Major C. Dowd was elected mayor by 228 majority out of 738 votes. He held the office for two years, after which John A. Young was mayor two years, W. F. Davidson succeeding him in 1873, and being himself succeeded in May, 1875, by William Johnston. There were, during those years, eight policemen, of whom two or three were usually negroes, and several of the twelve aldermen were negroes. In the November election of 1868, the county went Democratic by 200 majority, and Charlotte was Republican by 200 majority. The election was peaceable and the negroes behaved well. A company of troops was in the city for a few days. Col. H. C. Jones was elected State Senator in September, to succeed Hon. James W. Osborne, who died August 11.

Col. Jones was re-elected to the Senate in 1870, and J. S. Reid and R. P. Waring were elected representatives. This Legislature, November 29, elected Vance to the United States Senate, but he was not allowed to take the seat. William M. Shipp, of Mecklenburg, was at the same election chosen Attorney General of North Carolina. Mecklenburg voted against the proposed convention in August, 1871, by 63 majority. In 1872, the county and city were Democratic by 200 and 100 majority respectively, and in August, 1873,

a small majority was returned against the constitutional amendments. In 1874, R. P. Waring was elected Senator and J. S. Reid and J. E. Jetton representatives.

This county escaped the worst evils of those times. There was some trouble with Judge Logan who was plainly incompetent, and the lawyers of the 9th judicial district met in Charlotte June 2, 1871, and united in signing a petition to the Legislature stating their views clearly. The action was approved by a public mass meeting in the court house on the first day of the following January, but no action was taken and the judge served out his term. In September, 1871, the authorities discovered a plot among some trifling negroes to burn the city, and seven negroes were arrested and one convicted. There were many small fires and one large one November 17, 1870, and another exactly one year later, most of them believed to have been of incendiary origin. The last of the Federal troops left Charlotte in the early Spring of 1872. During this whole period, there was only one disturbance of any consequence, and that occurred in the afternoon of Christmas, 1875. A drunken white man from the country engaged in a quarrel with a large crowd of negroes at the intersection of Trade and College streets. Policeman Joe Orr arrested the white man and then the negroes attacked them with stones; other whites interfered and a general fight resulted, extending up Trade street to the square, and lasting half an hour. About thirty shots were fired, and one negro was killed and ten were wounded, while many others, white and black, were injured by rocks and sticks.

The campaign of 1876 closed the era of reconstruction. The color line was sharply drawn, and the negro voters in Mecklenburg were outnumbered by 375 majority, though Charlotte township was 300 majority the other way. Z. B. Vance was nominated for Governor in Raleigh June 14, and was given a hearty reception when he returned to Charlotte the next day. He and Settle spoke in the city September 21, to a crowd of 4,000 people, and though it was Vance's

home, his opponent was treated with all kindness and respect. In November, Vance and the new constitution carried the county by a vote of 3,428 to 2,588, and the city by 1,166 to 1,038. Dr. T. J. Moore was elected to the Senate and W. E. Ardrey and R. A. Shotwell to the House of Representatives.

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*Authority:*—County Records and Newspapers.

## CHAPTER XXX.

### FIRST DECADE WITHOUT SLAVERY. (1865 to 1875.)

**County Affairs in War Times—Emancipation Forced White Men to Work—Attention Diverted to New Things—This Section an Inviting Field for Investors—Reasons for the Progress Made. Death of a Woman Who Remembered May 20, 1775.**

War did not cause the cessation of all industries in Mecklenburg county. Most of the able-bodied men were in the armies, and the people did less trading, but the men who remained at home found plenty to do in providing for the soldiers in the field. The families made everything possible on their farms, and not only supported themselves, but sent quantities of clothing to the armies. There was much suffering and poverty, but this immediate section fared better than many others, because it was in good condition when war began and it escaped the blight of invaders. More annoyance was caused by the difficulty of procuring household necessities, such as salt and sugar, than by the impossibility of obtaining luxuries, for the minds of all were upon war and bare existence, and every energy was exerted to sustain life and to encourage the brave troops who were fighting against overwhelming disadvantages.

Taxes in 1863 were 40 cents on the \$100 valuation of property and \$1.20 on the poll, and this increased considerably during the next two years; in 1864, it was \$1.20 and \$3.60 respectively. The total sum raised in the county by taxation in 1863, was \$129,044; \$91,000 was invested in liquor and \$40,000 in cotton and woolen factories. The North Carolina powder mill was located at Tuckasee Ford, twelve miles from Charlotte. This mill was blown up and five men were killed by the explosion May 23, 1863, and in August of the following year, three men were killed by another explosion. S. W. Davis was president and man-

ager of the property. January 7, 1864, the Charlotte depots and warehouses, containing vast amounts of Confederate supplies, were completely destroyed by fire at a loss estimated at ten million dollars.

One of the noticeable features of the times was the lack of trouble with the slaves. They staid at their work without bothering about the war which was being waged with their freedom as an issue. Slaves who sold for a thousand dollars in 1861, were worth three thousand dollars in 1864, and the highest price recorded in that year was \$6,100. There were but few sales after 1864, as it was apparent that the end of the war was a question of a few months. Depreciation of Confederate currency became so rapid that trade almost ceased in the last year of the war. There was no political strife, and Mecklenburg people were inclined to palliate errors and faults rather than to criticise. In the gubernatorial election of 1864, the vote of the county was 1,690 for Vance and 112 for Holden, and the city of Charlotte voted 700 to 1.

The effect of emancipation upon all phases of industrial life was immediate and revolutionary. The population of the county was 17,374 in 1860, about 15,000 in 1865, and 24,298 in 1870. Charlotte contained a population of 1,366 in 1860, and 2,212 in 1870. This refers to the population inside the corporate limits. The population of the city, with the suburbs, was about 2,000 in 1860, 1,500 in 1865, and 5,000 in 1870. Under the system of slavery, the population of the county and city did not increase from 1825 to 1860, and wealth and prosperity were in the same condition. The rapid increase in population and wealth after the war was accelerated by several things in addition to the revival of interest in manufactures caused by the abolition of slavery. Charlotte was a central point for a large section of good territory, the railroad advantages were good, and the county enjoyed a better condition of government than those around it. Hence, the people from the more turbulent sections moved into Mecklenburg. At the close of the war, the county

contained about four thousand white men and nearly as many negro men; the whites were not accustomed to farm work and could not hire the negroes to work, and the result was that the attention was diverted to something else.

In June, 1866, there were sixty-six stores in the county. In the first six months of 1867, twelve stores and seventy-five other buildings were erected in Charlotte, and a thousand structures of various kinds were built in the city in the five years following the war—almost one a day. New life and progress were at work everywhere. Northern capitalists opened the gold mines, and the money put in circulation enlivened all branches of trade. In 1867, three banks were in operation—the First National, Dewey's Bank, and the Bank of Charlotte. To these was added the Merchants' and Farmers' National Bank in 1871. The Rock Island Woolen Mill, which had been established on the Catawba in 1847, was moved to Charlotte after the war, and was said to be the greatest establishment of the kind in the South. John A. Young was president and John Wilkes was treasurer, and the mill employed one hundred hands. January 15, 1870, it was sold at auction for a mortgage, and was purchased for \$29,000 by J. H. Wilson.

Cotton commanded high prices. In February, 1868, it sold for 27 cents a pound, and the first bale of the season in September, 1869, brought 35 cents a pound. There were a number of cotton dealers in the city, and their trade of 1868 in Charlotte amounted to nearly two million dollars. The total tax in that year was 30 cents on the \$100 and \$1.50 on the poll, and the total receipts of the county amounted to \$26,749, which more than paid the expenses. The county debt was \$82,000. The tax in 1871, was \$1.16 and \$2.00 for county and State purposes, and 75 cents and \$3.00 for the city. At this time, there were only six postoffices in the county, and the number was not increased until 1870.

This section was an inviting field for those whose homes had been destroyed and who were seeking a favorable location. In the latter part of 1867, three generals (D. H. Hill,

Rufus Barringer and R. D. Johnston), were citizens of Charlotte, and besides them were Ex-Governor Vance, six colonels, two lieutenant colonels, six majors, twenty-four captains and twenty-six lieutenants, all of whom were active in rebuilding the properties of the country. Gen. R. E. Lee was in Charlotte March 31, 1870, and Jefferson Davis was here May 25, 1871. Both were cordially welcomed.

April 16, 1870, a public meeting was held in the court house to consider the question of issuing bonds to aid the railroads. At the election held May 19, the county voted to subscribe \$200,000 to the Atlanta road and \$100,000 to rebuild the Statesville road, which had not been in operation since the close of the war. The Charlotte Board of Trade, which has been an important factor in the progress of the county and city, was organized July 25, 1870, with J. Y. Bryce as president. In June of the same year, Charlotte voted \$3,000 to aid the Mecklenburg Agricultural Society, and annual fairs have been held since that time with more or less irregularity. Among the business establishments then in the city were Wilkes' Iron Foundry, Charlotte Hotel, Mansion House which became the Central Hotel in January, 1873; W. F. Cook's farming implements factory, five drug stores, marble works, three book stores, three carriage shops, two harness makers, several wholesale merchandising stores, one distillery and four retail liquor dealers, J. W. Wadsworth's livery, and about fifty miscellaneous stores and shops.

The market house at the corner of College and Trade streets was completed and occupied in the latter part of 1871. A new jail was built in 1874, at a cost of \$20,398. Sample & Alexander were then running a shoe factory in Charlotte, and D. R. Leak and J. Heineman were operating tobacco factories. B. S. Guion and E. H. Woods established a spoke and handle factory in 1872; an ice factory was in operation in 1874, and in July of the same year, a new opera house, with a seating capacity of one thousand, was completed.

April 7, 1873, Mrs. Catherine Williams, aged 113, died

at the residence of John D. Hunter, in Mallard creek township. She was well and in full possession of her mental strength until two weeks before her death. In her youth, she was a near neighbor of John McKnitt Alexander, and she remembered well the events of May 20, 1775.

In 1873, the expenses of the county government were \$54,368 and the receipts \$60,012. The county debt was \$373,530, and the city debt was \$45,840. These debts were contracted mainly in the issuance of railroad bonds. The first passenger train from Charlotte to Spartanburg was run March 31, 1873, and the occasion was celebrated, as was also the running of the first train to Greenville April 28. December 15, 1874, passenger trains began running between Wilmington and Charlotte. Until that time, a regular stage line was kept up between Charlotte and Wadesboro. Stock law went into effect in the city January 1, 1876.

At the election August 5, 1874, there were 1,540 votes cast in Charlotte township and 4,180 in the whole county, and in the municipal election in May, 1875, there were 1,157 votes cast. A local census in February, 1876, showed that there were in Charlotte 1,730 buildings and eight thousand inhabitants. *During the last thirty-five years of slavery, the county and city made no appreciable advance in wealth and population. During the first decade after emancipation, both wealth and population doubled in the county and trebled in the city.*

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*Authority:*—Same as Previous Chapter.

## CHAPTER XXXI.

INDEPENDENCE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. (May 20, 1875.)

**Preparations and Committees for the Event—Great Men Present.  
—Marshals Were Confederate Generals—Immense Crowd in  
Charlotte—The Proceedings and Interesting Incidents.**

Anniversaries of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence were regularly celebrated in Charlotte and at other places in the county after the war, and preparations for the centennial anniversary began nearly a year before the event occurred. January 4, 1875, a joint meeting of the Charlotte board of aldermen and the county commissioners was held to take official action. The public meeting held on the same day resulted in the formation of an organization of which Mayor W. F. Davidson was chairman and J. P. Caldwell was secretary.

A general executive committee of ten members was appointed at a subsequent meeting, and Dr. Joseph Graham was made chairman. The committee on orators included Gov. Z. B. Vance, Hon. W. M. Shipp and Gen. D. H. Hill. The other chairmen were: Gen. J. A. Young, of the committee on subscriptions; J. H. Wilson, on finance; W. J. Yates, on the press; J. H. Orr, on fire and military companies; Col. Thomas H. Brem, on artillery and fire-works; and Col. H. C. Jones, on county affairs. In addition to these was one auxiliary committee in each township in the county. The committees met often and discussed the situation and perfected plans for the centennial day.

Wednesday, May 19, 1875, dawned bright and fair as was the day one hundred years before, but the contrast between the two occasions was wonderful, even though they were so close together in patriotism and sympathy. Then a few determined men assembled in a little log court house in a straggling village and severed the cord that bound them to

their only hope other than themselves; today, in a city of eight thousand inhabitants, with the buildings clothed in flags and every heart full to overflowing with patriotic pride, amid the booming of cannon and the stirring strains of martial music, men, women and children gathered from all parts of the re-united nation to do honor to the men who were first to evince the courage of their convictions.

At noon a large crowd collected in the square to witness the raising of the "stars and bars" to the top of the pole which had been prepared for it. As the emblem rose higher and higher and began to flutter in the breeze, the Citizens' Band, of Newbern, played "The Old North State," and the crowd joined in the words of the song:

"Carolina, Carolina, Heaven's blessing attend her;  
"While we live, we will cherish, protect and defend her."

Flags waved on all sides and shouts of enthusiasm rent the air.

Seated on the stand which had been erected under the flag were Governor C. H. Brogden, Mayor William Johnston and Dr. Joseph Graham. When the music ceased and the noise subsided, Mayor Johnston delivered the address of welcome in behalf of the city of Charlotte. He reviewed the thrilling scenes of the Revolution in which Mecklenburg was most concerned, regretted that no monument commemorated the Declaration, extended a cordial welcome to all, and introduced the Governor of North Carolina. Governor Brogden congratulated the people of the county on the success of the occasion, mentioned the deep patriotism of Mecklenburg, the progress of the State and the county, and, as Governor, welcomed the visitors. The Newbern band then played the "Mecklenburg Polka," which was composed for the occasion and which was highly complimented. At the conclusion of the speaking, the Raleigh Light Artillery, under the command of Captain A. B. Stronach, fired thirty-eight guns, one for each State in the Union.

Thursday, May 20, was ushered in by the firing at day-

break of one hundred guns by the Raleigh artillery, and the Richmond Howitzers, commanded by Captain Bidgood. By sunrise, the streets were crowded, and from that time until midday, trains brought vast crowds, and wagons and equipages of all kinds brought in the people from the country, and by 7 o'clock the whole city was packed with one moving mass of humanity. The total number present was variously estimated at from 25,000 to 40,000, but the conservative estimate was about 30,000. Six fire companies arrived on an early train, and were met by the Charlotte companies and welcomed by Captain J. C. Mills.

At 9 o'clock, Gen. W. R. Cox, the chief marshal, began to form the procession. His aides were Gen. Bryan Grimes, of Tarboro; Gen. Johnson Hagood, of South Carolina; Gen. Bradley T. Johnston, of Richmond; Gen. Thomas F. Drayton, of Charlotte; Major Charles Haigh, of Fayetteville; Dr. C. Mills, of Cabarrus county, and Dr. T. J. Moore, of Charlotte. With the marshals galloping through the crowded streets, the eager thousands shouting and singing, ladies leaning from windows and balconies, flags waving on all sides, bands playing and cannon booming, the scene was one to inspire every soul present and to be remembered until death. It was nearly noon when the procession, including eighteen fire companies and twelve military companies, began the march to the fair ground, where the exercises were held.

The proceedings of the day were opened by Ex-Governor William Graham, who announced that Rev. A. W. Miller, D. D., would invoke the divine blessing. After the prayer, the band played "The Old North State," and then Gov. Graham, in a few words, introduced Major Seaton Gales, of Raleigh, who read the Declaration adopted May 20, 1775. Hon. John Kerr was the next speaker, and he was followed by Hon. John M. Bright, a member of Congress from Tennessee. At night, there was speaking from the stand in Independence square, the orators being Judge Davidson, of Tennessee; Gov. Chamberlain, of South Carolina; Gov.

Hendricks, of Indiana; Gov. Vance; Ex-Governor Walker, of Virginia; Col. Thomas Polk, of Tennessee; Generals Cox and Clingman, and Mayor William Johnston. At the conclusion of the speeches, Mr. E. P. Jones, of Greensboro, seconded by Capt. Smith, of Georgia, moved that the thanks of the visitors be tendered to the people of Charlotte for the kindness and hospitality which had been extended to all, and the motion was accepted with cheers.

One of the most pleasing incidents of the day was the cordial greeting on all sides to Gov. Hendricks, of Indiana, who made a pleasant impression upon everyone. Several accidents occurred in the discharge of firearms and fireworks, though no one was killed. Among those on the speaker's stand was James Belk, of Union county, who was born February 4, 1765, and was consequently one hundred and ten years old. Senator Merrimon, Col. John H. Wheeler and many other distinguished men were present. Col. Wheeler delivered a lecture on Mecklenburg history in the court house May 24, being introduced by Gov. Vance. The Mecklenburg Monumental Association was organized June 25, with Z. B. Vance, president; Dr. Joseph Graham and J. H. Wilson, vice presidents, and T. W. Dewey, secretary and treasurer. The Mecklenburg Historical Society was organized May 7, 1875, with the following officers: President, C. Dowd; vice presidents, Z. B. Vance and D. H. Hill; secretaries, T. J. Moore and W. W. Fleming.

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*Authority:*—Charlotte Newspapers of 1875.

## CHAPTER XXXII.

### LAST QUARTER OF THE CENTURY. (1875 to 1900.)

Public Improvements—Public Buildings—Medical Society—Law Association—Newspapers—Farms.

The history of Mecklenburg and Charlotte during the last quarter of the nineteenth century is chiefly an account of the growth of the manufacturing industries. As manufactures grew, agriculture and the trades were developed to supply the increased demands, and as the city grew, public buildings were erected and improvements made for the benefit of the public.

January 1, 1899, the city purchased the water works plant from the Charlotte Water Works Company, for \$226,000. The plant was established in 1882. Two hundred hydrants afford protection from fire, and water is supplied free to the charitable institutions. The water is filtered by the best known mechanical process, and since the city assumed control of the management, the cost has been reduced one-half.

Gas lights have been in operation in Charlotte since 1857, and electric lights were introduced in 1887. Street cars were running in 1887, and the electric power was substituted for horse power in 1893. In 1883, the Southern Bell Telephone Company was granted permission by the board of aldermen to erect their poles in the city, with the provision that the city could place the fire alarm boxes on the poles. The first ordinance prohibiting the sale of tobacco on Sunday was enacted August 20, 1877. The county chain gang was organized in 1868, the new cemetery was first used in 1867, the sewerage system was established in 1881, and the crematory for the disposal of city refuse was established in 1896.

The new city hall was built in 1891. It is made of North Carolina brown-stone and granite, and cost \$40,000. The county court house was built in 1896, of terra cotta and

brick, at a cost of \$50,000. The United States Federal building, containing the postoffice, was erected in 1891, at a cost of \$85,000.

In 1890, the Legislature chartered the Charlotte Consolidated Construction Company, which has come to be known as the "4 C's." It was organized with a capital stock of \$200,000, and with E. D. Latta as president and J. L. Chambers as secretary and treasurer. The company has since purchased the Charlotte Electric Company, Charlotte Street Railway Company and Charlotte Gas Light Company, and the three were combined under a new charter as the Charlotte Electric Railway, Light and Power Company. The "4 C's" engineered the building of Dilworth, and owns a considerable portion of the property.

There were nine physicians in Charlotte at the close of the war. There are now about fifty in the county, among them being some of the most prominent in the State. The Charlotte Medical Society was organized under an act of the Legislature of January 28, 1897, with R. J. Brevard president and G. W. Pressly secretary and treasurer. The officers now are R. L. Gibbon and J. C. Montgomery. This association has been productive of much good, and only physicians of high standing are allowed to become members of it. The *Charlotte Medical Journal* was begun in 1892 by Dr. E. C. Register and Dr. J. C. Montgomery. The latter withdrew from the management in 1902, and it has since been conducted by Dr. Register alone.

As lawyers devote more time to public affairs than other men, it is but natural they should be the more widely known. Charlotte has for fifty years been distinguished and honored by an able bar, and the reputation increases with each year. In the ten years after the war were such men as A. Burwell, J. W. Osborne, Jones & Johnston, W. M. Shipp, Vance & Dowd, J. H. Wilson and W. P. Bynum. There are now thirty-eight lawyers in the county. The Charlotte Law Association was chartered January 13, 1885. The library of the association, in the Piedmont building, is one of the best

to be found in any city of similar size, one of the prominent features of it being the annual Supreme Court reports of every State in the Union.

There have been twenty-five different newspapers and periodicals published in Charlotte since the war, of which only a few survive. The *Charlotte Evening News* was established by Wade H. Harris in 1888, and was continued by him until 1894, when he was succeeded as editor and proprietor by W. C. Dowd. Dr. A. J. McKelway succeeded Mr. Dowd as editor May 23, 1903. The *Daily Carolina Observer* was established in 1869 by Smith, Watson & Co. Francis Justice was editor from January to August, 1870. Mr. Justice was followed by J. W. Wright, J. Jones and C. R. Jones. The latter conducted it until 1883. The *Charlotte Chronicle* was begun in 1887, and in 1892 was sold to D. A. Tompkins and J. P. Caldwell, who changed the name to the *Daily Observer*, and J. P. Caldwell began his duties as editor February 1, 1892. The *Chronicle* was revived as the *Charlotte Evening Chronicle* May 25, 1903, with Howard A. Banks as editor. The first telegraphic news service received in Charlotte was by the old *Observer* in March, 1874. The *Observer* issues a semi-weekly edition, and the *News* also issues a semi-weekly known as the *Times-Democrat*. Besides these are the *Mill News*, the *Peoples' Paper*, *Southern and Western Textile Excelsior*, *Carolina Medical Journal*, *Star of Zion* by and for colored people; *Presbyterian Weekly Standard*, and *Quarterly*, and the publications of the colleges.

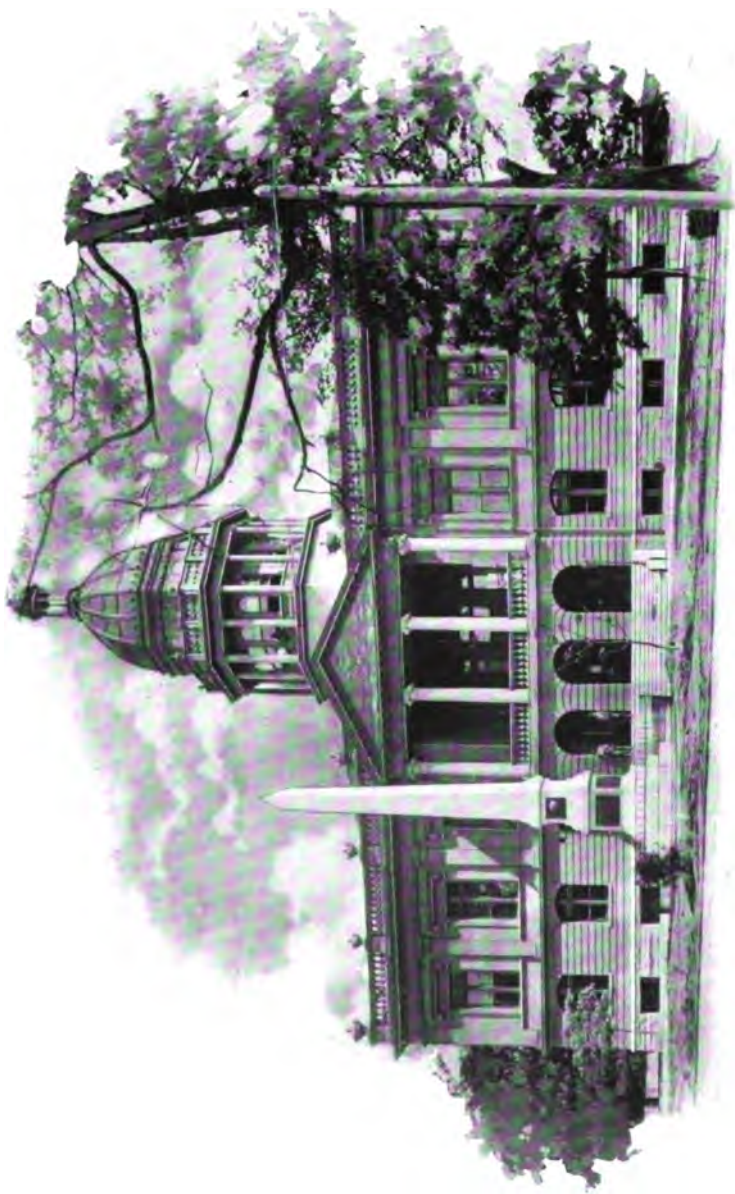
It is noticeable that as Mecklenburg has grown richer and more populous, the farms have increased in number and decreased in size. The average number of acres in a farm in the county is seventy-five. There is only one which contains more than a thousand acres, and 64 per cent. of them contain less than one hundred acres. There are 227,995 acres of land, and the 4,190 farms are occupied by 1,226 owners, 290 part owners, 22 owners and tenants, 55 managers, 631 cash paying tenants and 1,966 share tenants.





TRANSITION PERIOD: COUNTY COURT HOUSE, 1888.





TRANSITION PERIOD: COUNTY COURT HOUSE, 1898.







TRANSITION PERIOD: CITY HALL, 1888.

1888

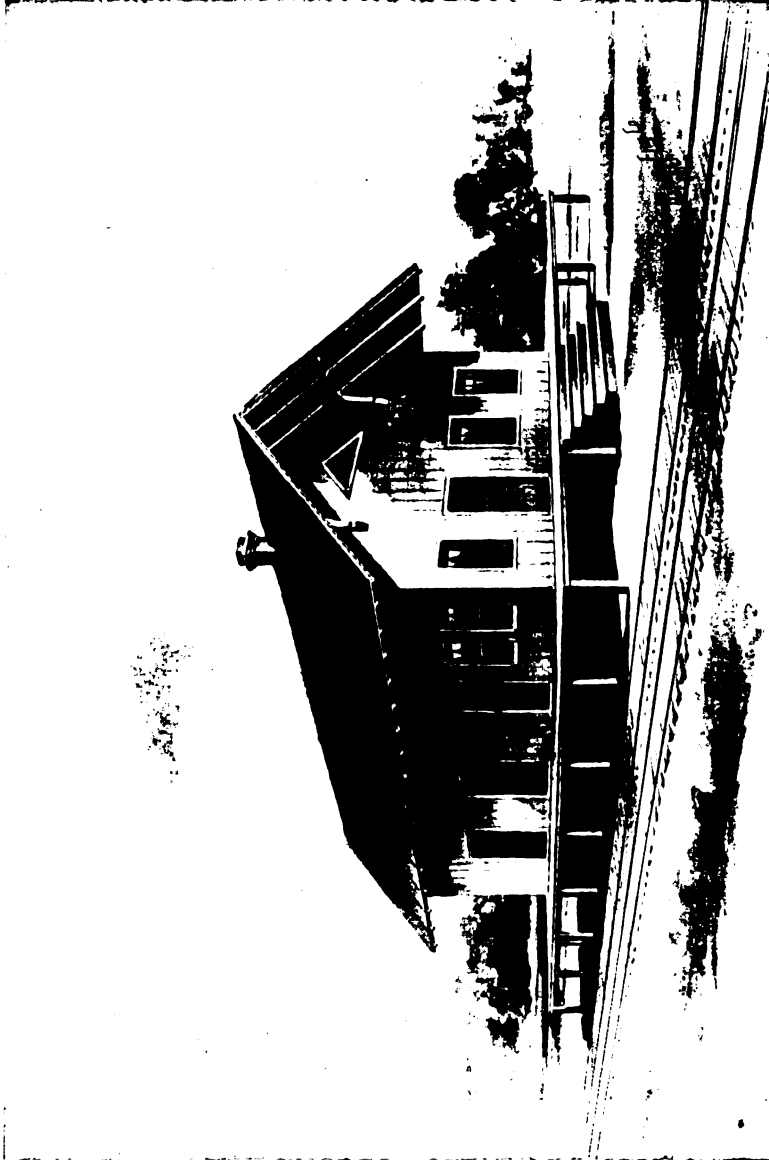


TRANSITION PERIOD: CITY HALL, 1898.





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TRANSITION PERIOD: SOUTHERN RAILROAD STATION, 1888.



TRANSITION PERIOD: SOUTHERN RAILROAD STATION, 1898.

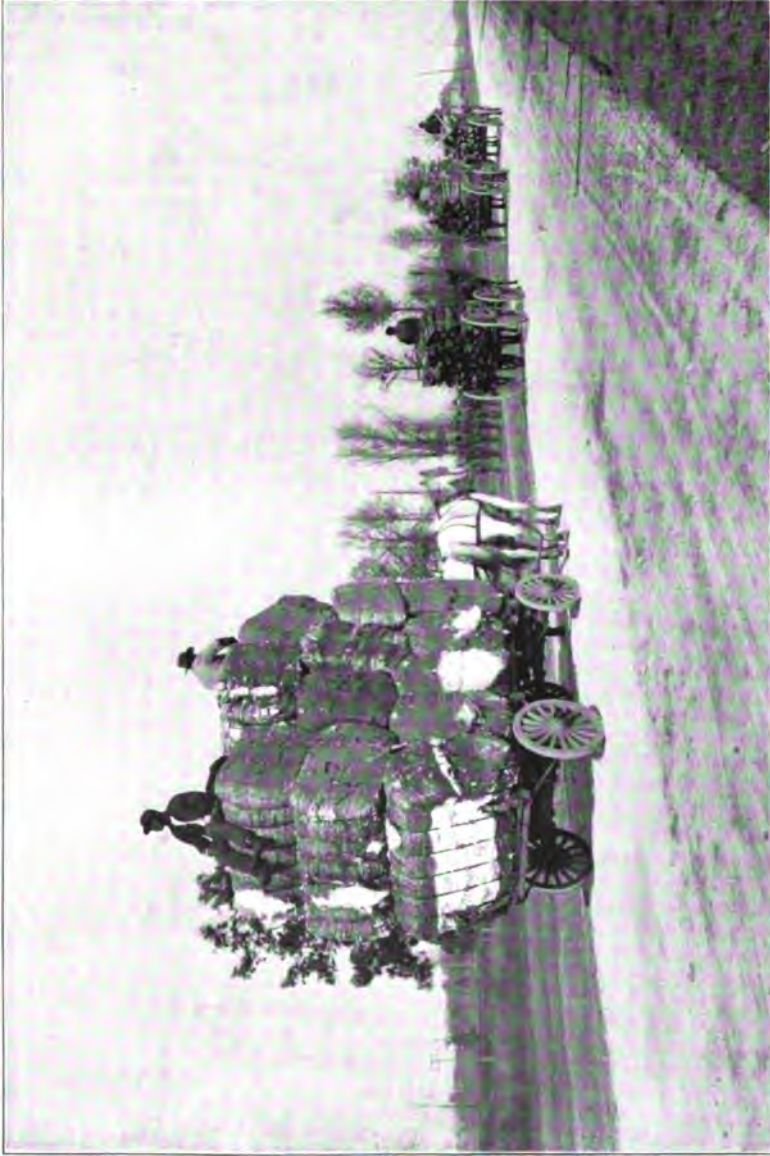






TRANSITION PERIOD: AVERAGE ROAD, 1888.





TRANSITION PERIOD: AVERAGE ROAD, 1898.





Sixty per cent. of the farms are occupied by white people, and 40 per cent. by colored people. The number of buildings in the county of all kinds, according to the census of 1900, is 632,922.

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*Notes:*—Information Obtained from County and City Records; Officials of the County, City, 4 C's, Medical and Law Associations; City Code, Newspaper Files and Census Reports.

## CHAPTER XXXIII.

### THE CHURCHES FROM 1860 TO 1903.

**Short Sketches of the Growth of the Principal Congregations of the Leading Denominations in the City and County, and of the Other Religious Organizations.**

There are nearly two hundred churches in Mecklenburg county, representing numerous creeds and denominations, and being about evenly divided in number between the white and colored races. In Charlotte and the immediate vicinity are sixty-four houses of worship, of which twenty-seven are for colored people. In 1868, there were only seven churches in the city—Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Episcopal, Lutheran and Catholic. The growth and development of the various religious sects has been in proportion to the growth of the city and county.

St. Peter's Episcopal church was organized in 1844, and the first building was erected in the same year. The present church on North Tryon street was built in 1857, and was rebuilt in 1892. The property is worth about \$40,000, and St. Peter's has 325 communicants. St. Mark's, in Long Creek township, was established in 1885. There are four chapels in the county, and the total Episcopal membership is about 450. St. Peter's Hospital, for white people, was established January 1, 1876, and the Good Samaritan Hospital, for colored people, in 1890. Thompson's Orphanage was established in 1887, has property worth \$20,000, and regularly cares for about seventy orphans. St. Michael's colored Episcopal church is located on South Mint street, and the pastor also has supervision of St. Michael's Training and Industrial School for colored people.

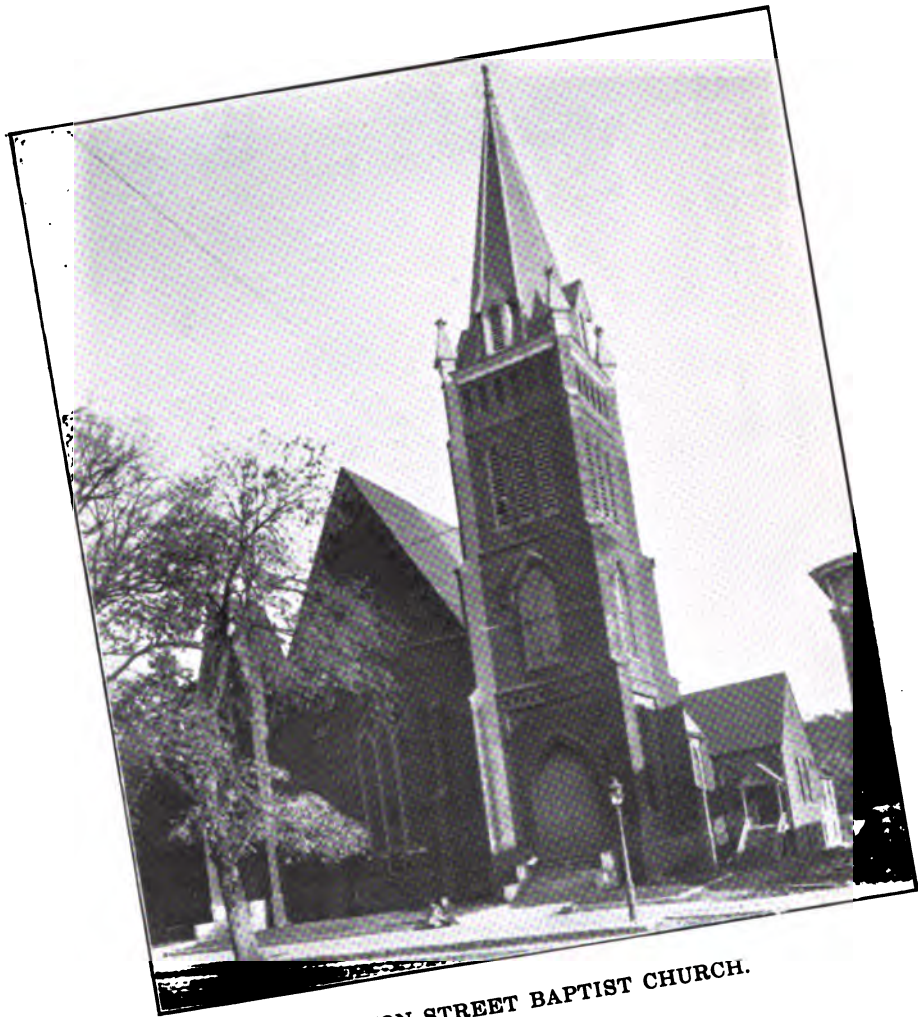
The First Presbyterian church has occupied its present site since 1821. The old building was many times improved and repaired, and in 1892 and the following year, the beau-





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.





TRYON STREET BAPTIST CHURCH.



tiful edifice now in use was erected at a cost of \$31,000. This church has 650 members. The Second Presbyterian church was organized October 22, 1873, in the old court house, with seventeen members, and Dr. W. S. Plumer was stated supply for eighteen months. A building was erected on the present site, at a cost of \$10,000, in 1875, and the present church was built in 1892, at a cost of \$58,000, and has 1,004 members.

Tenth Avenue Presbyterian church, which was formerly known as Graham Street church, was organized with sixty-two members March 2, 1890. The new building was completed and occupied in November, 1902, and the property is worth \$25,000. The membership is more than four hundred.

Westminster congregation was begun in the old graded school building in 1896, by Dr. J. W. Stagg. Atherton Sunday school was combined with it, and in 1897, the building was completed at a cost of \$15,000, and the church has eighty members. Most of the bequest of Miss Jennie E. Johnson to the Second church was used in building Westminster church. Besides these prominent churches in the city, the Presbyterians have twenty-six others in the county, with a total membership of 6,600.

The Presbyterian General Assembly of the Confederacy met in Charlotte, May 5, 1864, and the first meeting of the Mecklenburg Presbytery was at Big Steele creek church, April 21, 1870. The *Presbyterian Standard*, official organ of the North Carolina Synod, was moved from Wilmington to Charlotte in 1898, and has since been edited by Dr. A. J. McKelway. The Presbyterian Hospital is practically the city hospital, and the Presbyterians have established a home for aged and helpless women and the Alexander Rescue Home for children.

In 1873, the first church of the Associate Reformed Presbyterians was organized in Charlotte. A new building, at the corner of Tryon and Third streets, was completed in 1890, at a total cost of \$20,000. The Second Associate

Reformed Presbyterian church was built in 1899, at a cost of \$6,000. The First has 190 members and the Second has 290, and there are five other churches of this denomination in the county.

The First Baptist church in Charlotte was built in 1833, at the corner of Third and College streets. A better building, which cost \$1,800, was erected in 1855, at the corner of Seventh and Brevard streets; and the structure now occupied by the First Baptist church was completed in 1884. This church has 500 members. In 1895, the Twelfth Street Baptist church was built, and it has 300 members. There are seventeen Baptist churches in the county.

Tryon Street Methodist Episcopal church is the largest of the nineteen congregations of that denomination in the county. A building was erected on Sixth and Tryon streets in 1859, and it was worked over after the war, and was rebuilt in 1891. The property is valued at \$31,000, and the church has 650 members. Trinity Methodist Episcopal church was organized and built in 1896; has 500 members and property worth \$40,000. Brevard and Calvary churches have 350 members each, and Hoskins has 300, and the total membership in the county is about 4,000, divided among nineteen churches.

St. Mark's Lutheran church was organized in 1859. The first building was at the corner of Seventh and College streets, and the present building on North Tryon street was built in 1885, at a cost of \$18,000, and the church has 175 members. Morning Star Lutheran church, in the southeastern part of the county, is the only other of this denomination in Mecklenburg. The Catholic church was built in 1851, and the new building in 1893, and has a membership of 500. The Jewish population have a congregation known as "Shaaray Israel," but they have no synagogue.

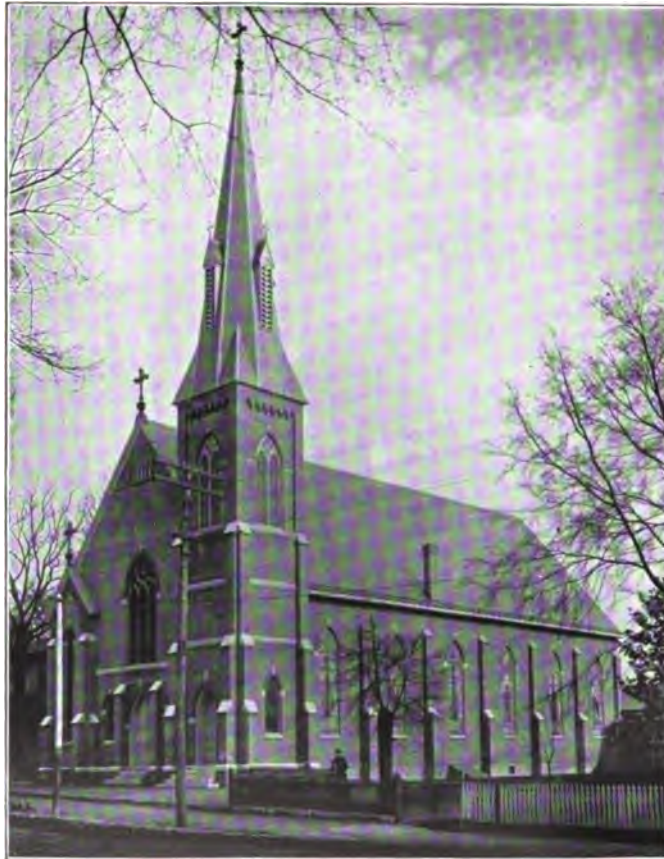
There are about seventy-five colored churches in Mecklenburg, nearly all of which have been built since the war. The Zion Methodist is the leading colored denomination, having fifty churches, and issuing a religious paper from the





TRYON STREET M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH.





**CATHOLIC CHURCH.**



Zion Publishing House in Charlotte. The Clinton Chapel of the Zion Methodists and the First and Second Baptist churches (colored) each have 300 members.

The Charlotte Ministers' Conference was organized October 14, 1891. The Young Woman's Christian Association was established in 1902. The Young Men's Christian Association, which has 635 members, was organized November 11, 1874, with sixteen active members and seven associate members. The Association has had only five presidents—A. S. Caldwell, Rev. W. M. Hunter, R. N. Littlejohn, W. A. Truslow and George B. Hanna. Prof. Hanna has been president since 1880, except for six months filled by Mr. Truslow in 1885. Rev. P. J. Carraway, pastor of Tryon Street Methodist Episcopal church, was active in the work of organization. The present Y. M. C. A. building, on South Tryon street, was occupied in 1888, and the Association owns property valued at \$40,000.

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*Notes:*—The information for this Chapter was obtained from Church Records, Printed Sketches, Newspapers, and Officials of the Various Organizations.

## CHAPTER XXXIV.

### EDUCATION FROM 1860 TO 1903.

Development of County Public School System—Charlotte Graded Schools First in the State—Presbyterian, Elizabeth, Davidson and Medical Colleges—Charlotte Military Institute—Biddle University and St. Michael's Training and Industrial School.

During the war, the income from the county school tax was donated to the use of the soldiers, but the amount received from the State was used for the support of the schools. In 1863, Mecklenburg public schools cost \$3,860.08. There were also a number of academies in the county from 1860 to 1870, the most prominent ones being at Providence, Davidson, Claremont, and Steele creek. The North Carolina Educational Association convened in Charlotte, November 8, 1864, and Rev. R. Burwell was elected president. The Educational Association of the Confederate States was in session here at the same time, and Calvin H. Wiley was elected president. Rev. R. H. Griffith and Armistead Burwell taught a boys' school in Charlotte in 1865; and from 1867 to 1869, Rev. A. G. Stacy, with a strong faculty, conducted the Mecklenburg Female College in the Military Institute, and the school was well patronized.

#### COUNTY SCHOOLS.

In 1870, the public school system of the State was reorganized, and in that year the schools of Mecklenburg cost \$5,650. In 1874, 46 white schools, with 1,702 children, cost \$5,346, and 34 colored schools, with 1,814 children, cost \$2,948. In 1876, there were 102 schools in the county, and the total cost was \$9,914. In those days, the schools were governed by a board of education, and the teachers applied for license to a county examiner. The educational board still exists, but the tendency has been to make the examiner





DAVIDSON COLLEGE CAMPUS.

more and more important, until now, under the title of superintendent of education, he is the real head of the public schools of the county. In 1873, many teachers taught two or three schools in one year, as the terms continued only from two to five months. Teachers were paid \$25 or \$30 per month; or if the number of pupils was small, one dollar for each one in attendance.

There are now 141 public schools in the county, of which 61 are for colored people, and the total cost in 1902, was \$42,512.55. There are 10,869 white school children and 7,927 colored children, and the school terms range from four to eight months, with an average of a little more than five months. The census of 1900 credits Mecklenburg with 10,370 illiterate persons who are more than ten years of age. Of these, 7,861 are negroes. Among the teachers are seventeen male and thirty lady graduates; white male teachers receive from \$30.00 to \$50.00 a month, with an average of \$38.00; the average for white lady teachers is \$28.00, and the colored teachers receive \$20.00 or \$25.00 a month. Ten schools have three teachers each, and thirty have as many as two each. Among the best schools in the county outside of Charlotte are the Belmont Graded School, Bain Academy, Davidson Academy, Matthews High School, Pineville High School, Newell Academy, Zion Academy, Huntersville Academy and the Atherton Graded School.

#### CHARLOTTE GRADED SCHOOLS.

In the fall of 1873, Rev. J. B. Boone organized in Charlotte the first graded school in North Carolina. The first session was begun October 21, in Miss Hattie Moore's dwelling house, in the rear of the Episcopal church, and was continued for eight months, with an average daily attendance of 175 and at a total expense amounting to \$2,901.75; closing June 19. Gen. Rufus Barringer, Major C. Dowd and Capt. John Wilkes composed the school board, and the teachers were Misses M. H. Barber, Hattie Moore, S. C. Miller, F. A. Walsh, and M. N. Lucas, and Mrs. S. E. Waring. Miss

Moore was succeeded in March by Miss A. B. Carr, and she in May by Miss Sue M. Johnston. September 7, 1874, the second session was begun in two houses on opposite sides of Seventh street, next to the railroad, and was continued for eight months lacking one day, closing May 6, because of lack of money. The expense for the second year was \$2,674, and the average attendance was 225, the largest enrollment in any one month being 340 in December. The teachers were Misses Barber, Walsh, Lucas, M. S. Griffith, Sallie A. Bethune, S. H. Miller and Mrs. Waring. Pupils of the white school were properly graded, as were also the pupils of the colored school, but the two were not in any way connected.

When the graded school was begun, \$1,700 was on hand, and \$600 was received from the Peabody Fund the first year and \$1,000 the second year. Some voluntary contributions were received, but there was no charge for tuition, and the only other source of income was the county school fund. The apparent lack of funds and public approval of the work, aided by Mr. Boone's efforts, served to begin an agitation for a special tax. A bill providing a special charter and allowing a tax to be levied, was introduced into the General Assembly by Senator R. P. Waring, and was ratified March 22, 1875. Before it should go into effect, it was stipulated that a majority of "those voting" should vote in favor of it. Several elections were held without securing a majority of the registered voters, during which time the school was suspended. On the first Monday in June, 1880, the election resulted in a vote of 815 to 1 in favor of schools. There were 1,679 names on the registration books, and there had been no new registration for the election, but before the result was announced, the aldermen erased 133 names and then declared that the necessary majority had been obtained. A tax-payer carried the matter into court, and the aldermen were sustained by the lower court, and finally by the Supreme Court, in the Fall session of 1881. The eight school commissioners





PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE.

met June 10, 1880, and organized and elected Capt. Fred Nash treasurer, which position he held until 1901.

The school opened September 11, 1882, with 480 white and 253 colored pupils—the white school in the Military Institute building, and the colored school in the basement of the colored Episcopal church. T. J. Mitchell, of Ohio, was superintendent from the opening until August 9, 1886, when he resigned to become president of the Alabama State Normal School. J. T. Corlew succeeded Mr. Mitchell, and served until January 28, 1888. Alexander Graham has been superintendent since February 7, 1888. During the first session under Superintendent Mitchell, there were twelve white teachers and six colored teachers, the local tax was ten cents on the \$100 valuation of property and thirty cents on the poll, and there were five hundred white pupils and three hundred colored pupils. The Charlotte Military Institute, which was leased in 1882, was purchased by the schools in 1883, and the North Graded School building was erected in 1900. A manual training department was established in 1891, and was very successful, but was discontinued because of lack of room.

During the session of 1901-1902, the total enrollment of pupils was 3,056, of whom 1,978 were white and 1,078 colored. The average daily attendance was 1,456 whites and 632 colored. The income from the city tax of twenty cents on the \$100 valuation and sixty cents on the poll, was \$16,006.12, and \$11,250.00 was received from the county, making a total of \$27,256.12. The white teachers were paid \$20,806.00, and the colored teachers \$5,419.00. The forty-seven white teachers received salaries of \$40 or \$50 a month, and the sixteen colored teachers were paid from \$30 to \$40. Miss Sallie Bethune has been teaching in the public schools regularly since the opening day in 1882, and enjoys the distinction of having taught more children to read than any other teacher in the State. There are ten grades, and departments of music and drawing, and the schools continue for nine months each year.

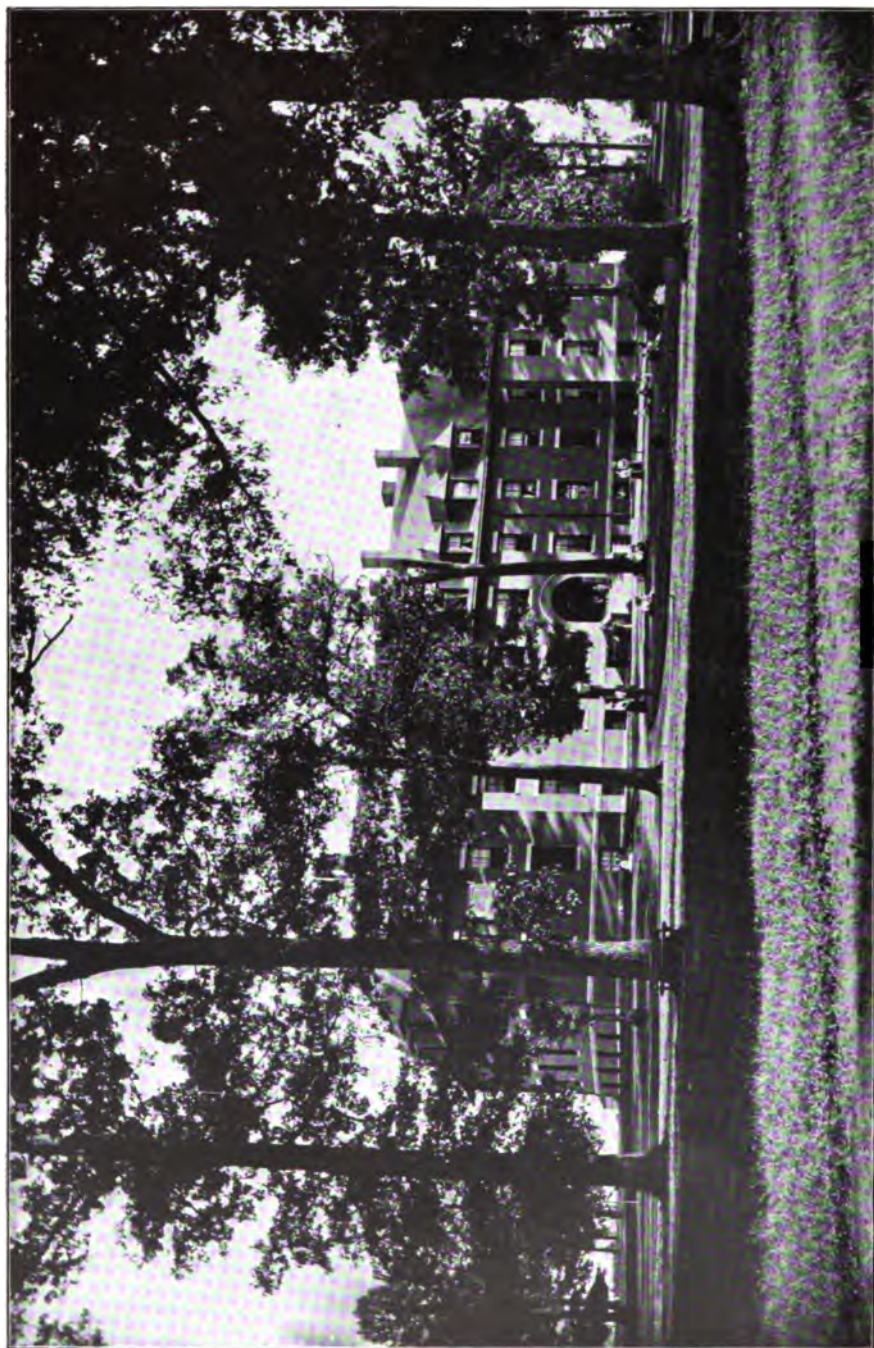
## PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE.

President R. Burwell continued the Charlotte Female Institute during the war. In 1863, he had four assistants, nine in 1868, and eleven in 1872. The school prospered under his administration, and it was much regretted by the patrons that in the last year mentioned the president resigned to assume the control of Peace Institute in Raleigh. Rev. R. H. Chapman, D. D., was president from 1872 to 1875, and he was succeeded by Rev. S. Taylor Martin, of Virginia, who, with seven assistants, remained in charge until 1878. Rev. W. R. Atkinson, who had been teaching in Peace Institute, assumed control in 1878, and continued until he resigned to go to Columbia. The institution was then closed until Miss Lily Long re-opened it as the Presbyterian College in 1895. In 1896, the city of Charlotte released all claim to the property, and it has since been in control of the Presbyteries of Mecklenburg and Concord. Rev. James R. Bridges, D. D., has been president since 1898, and the building has been rebuilt at a cost of \$70,000. The college has a faculty of twenty instructors, and during the session of 1901-1902 enrolled one hundred and six in the collegiate department, thirty-eight in the preparatory and forty-three in the primary. It has also departments of music, art and elocution.

## MILITARY INSTITUTE.

In February, 1872, the old Military Institute property was sold to S. W. Saunders, J. H. Carson and S. B. Alexander. October 1, 1873, Col. J. P. Thomas was in charge of the school, and continued it until he left Charlotte in 1883, in which year the building was sold to the city graded schools. Capt. W. A. Barrier founded the Macon school in 1870, and conducted it until he died in November, 1890. Capt. J. G. Baird purchased the building and E. L. Reid was principal from 1890 to 1891. Capt. Baird then assumed control of the school and has since conducted it, and in 1894, the name was changed to Charlotte Military Institute. The present building was occupied in 1901. The school has high school





ELIZABETH COLLEGE.

UNIV.  
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and primary departments, and is highly considered for efficient training. Since its beginning in 1870, it has given instruction to thirty-five hundred boys.

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St. Mary's Seminary in Charlotte was established in 1888, and is conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, who also conduct the Academy of the Sacred Heart near Belmont.

#### MEDICAL COLLEGE.

North Carolina Medical College was established by Dr. J. P. Munroe at Davidson in 1893, and the property is worth \$10,000. It had four instructors and eleven students the first year, and in the session of 1902-1903, there were seventeen instructors and sixty-seven students. The institution is controlled by three directors known as the board of control.

#### ELIZABETH COLLEGE.

Elizabeth Female College was established in 1897 by the United Synod of the South of the Lutheran church. It is beautifully located on a site of twenty acres, and has property worth \$250,000. Dr. C. B. King, as president, opened the institution in the Fall of 1897, with sixteen instructors and ninety-four students. In 1903, there were twenty-two instructors and one hundred and twenty students. The course of instruction is thorough and complete, and the college has from its beginning been classed among the best female schools in the country.

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The school now known as Biddle University (for colored people) was established in 1867, the principal movers being Revs. S. C. Alexander and W. G. Miller, and Mrs. Mary D. Biddle, of Philadelphia who gave \$1,400 for the building. Col. W. C. Myers donated the eight acres of land on which the building is located, and ten thousand dollars was received from the Freedmen's Bureau. The school was established in the present quarters in 1869, during which year Rev. S. Mattoon was elected president, and he served until 1884 when he was succeeded by Rev. W. A. Holliday, who

was president a short time, and was followed by Rev. W. F. Johnson. Rev. D. J. Sanders, D. D., the present head of the institution, was elected in 1891. Biddle University is under the care of the Northern Presbyterian church, includes religious, literary and industrial instruction in the curriculum, and enrolled two hundred and forty students in the session of 1902-1903. The president and teachers are colored people.

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St. Michael's Training and Industrial School, under the auspices of the Colored Episcopal church, was established in 1891, has property worth \$7,000, three instructors, and regularly trains more than a hundred pupils.

#### DAVIDSON COLLEGE.

Davidson College, under the administration of Dr. J. L. Kirkpatrick, continued its sessions during the war, and at the close the president and three professors were faithfully performing their duties. Dr. Kirkpatrick resigned in 1866, and the presidents since have been Rev. G. W. McPhail, D. D., L. L. D., from 1866 to 1871; Prof. J. R. Blake (chairman of the faculty), from 1871 to 1877; Rev. A. D. Hepburn, D. D., L. L. D., from 1877 to 1885; Rev. Luther McKinnon, D. D., from 1885 to 1888; Rev. J. B. Shearer, D. D., L. L. D., from 1888 to 1901, and Henry Louis Smith, M. A., Ph. D., from 1901 until the present time. The college owns seventeen buildings, which cost, with equipment, \$165,000, and the endowment fund amounts to \$125,000. The scientific laboratory is equal to any in the South, and the course of instruction, faculty and students rank with the best. During the session of 1902-1903, there were eight professors, eight instructors and assistants, and 225 students.

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*Authority:*—Catalogues and Historical Sketches of the Various Institutions, Officials, County and City Records, and Charlotte Newspapers.

## CHAPTER XXXV.

### MINING, BANKING AND THE ASSAY OFFICE. (1860 to 1903.)

Use of Improved Mining Machinery After the War—The Miners and the Products—Minerals Found in the County—Receipts of Gold and Silver at the Assay Office—History of the Office.—Charlotte's Leading Banking Institutions.

At the close of the Civil War, there was only one mine in operation in Mecklenburg, and it was the Rudisill. The United States mint was seized by the Confederate authorities in 1861, and held by them until 1865, and for two years thereafter it was occupied by the Federal military authorities. By 1867, the mining and banking interests of Mecklenburg were beginning to take on new life. Investors and speculators from all parts of the world were in this section examining and considering the various natural resources. In that year there were three banks in Charlotte, and the mint was re-opened as an assay office under the supervision of Dr. Isaac W. Jones.

Humphrey Bissell, who was a learned mining engineer, erected the first improved California stamp battery in the county in 1866. The methods of mining were many and various. Forty-eight different processes for the treatment of ore are known to have been tried in the county within the past fifty years, but only two survived the test of time (clorination and smelting), though the cyanide treatment has encouraged hope that ultimately it may be widely applicable. The chief elements in the problem of the extraction of the precious metals from ore are pulverization, concentration, roasting (or expelling the sulphur with incidental oxidation), and the extraction of the gold and the silver.

There are 83 mines in Mecklenburg which have been worked and can again be worked. The Rudisill, near Charlotte, has a shaft 400 feet deep, and has 3,500 feet of levels.

This mine has produced gold amounting to \$2,600,000. The St. Catherine, also near the city, has a shaft 450 feet deep. Capp's mine, six miles west of the city, has yielded \$2,300,000. Capp's, and the Surface Hill mine, twelve miles from Charlotte, and the Wilson mine, are worked intermittently. The Wilhelmina, in Paw Creek township, is producing considerable gold, and is the only mine in the county operated regularly. The ore in the county assays from \$50 to \$180 a ton, and some rich veins are occasionally struck, and nuggets are not uncommon.

Silver is found, but there has been no regular mining for it. It is generally in small quantities in the gold ore. Throughout the county are quarries of red, white and gray granite, sandstone, slate, hornblend and leopardite, the latter being a black spotted granite found only in Mecklenburg. Iron, lead, zinc and thirty-three other minerals have been found, but not in sufficient quantities for practical purposes.

The mint, which is really only an assay office, has not done any coinage since before the war. The comparatively small amount which would be done can be done at the Philadelphia mint much cheaper than here. There have been six assayers in charge since Dr. Jones: Calvin Cowles, 1869 to 1885; R. P. Waring, 1885 to 1889; Stuart W. Cramer, 1889 to 1893; W. E. Ardrey, 1893 to 1897; W. S. Clanton, 1897 to 1903, and D. Kirby Pope in 1903.

Though the assay office was opened in the Summer of 1867, no work was done until the following March, and in that year the receipts were \$4,851.95. The total receipts from the establishment of the mint up to June 30, 1873, were \$5,129,217.28. In 1873-74, \$8,763 worth of gold and silver was received; the next year it amounted to \$6,690; in 1877 it was \$10,382; 1878, \$54,345. From that year, the receipts increased annually until 1888, when they amounted to \$283,619, which is the highest mark attained. For the year ending June 30, 1902, the receipts were \$267,804; and for the last six months of 1902, 152,080. The total receipts

at the office up to January 1, 1903, were \$10,163,000. Of this, \$30,455 was silver, and the yearly receipt of silver now is from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

There is a practically inexhaustible source of wealth in the mines of Mecklenburg county, and it is a cause for congratulation that new interest is being taken in them. Capitalists are investigating the situation, and the renewal of the work will result in an increased circulation of money and a consequent and natural increase in wealth and prosperity. New banking institutions have been established in Charlotte recently, and there is an abundance of capital available. The Charlotte National Bank was organized February 1, 1897, with a capital of \$125,000; Southern Loan and Savings Bank, July 6, 1901, with \$25,000 capital; Southern States Trust Company, July 15, 1901, with \$100,000 which has been increased to \$200,000; and besides these are the three old banks—the First National, Commercial National and Merchants' and Farmers' National; Mechanics Perpetual Building and Loan Association, Mutual Building and Loan Association, and Charlotte Building and Loan Association. These strong financial institutions have combined assets of nearly six million dollars, which is double what it was in 1890.

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*Authority:*—Records of the Mint, Newspapers and Bank Officials.

## CHAPTER XXXVI.

### ROAD BUILDING FROM 1880 TO 1903.

**Influences Which Made Better Roads Necessary—Original Methods and Subsequent Progress—Cost of Roads—Convict Labor Satisfactory—Lessons Taught by Experience.**

Development of manufactures, and consequent increase of wealth and population in the city, necessitated a greater trade in country produce, and the more frequent traveling between country and city soon emphasized the manifest importance of a system of good roads. Manufactures render good roads necessary, and at the same time make them more feasible by the increased income from taxes; and wherever and whenever factories are established, the road question immediately begins to command attention.

Agitation for better roads in Mecklenburg began soon after the war, and some desultory work was done on them, but the movement which has resulted in the present excellent highways did not begin until about 1885. January 26, 1881, Gen. John A. Young and T. L. Vail appeared before the board of aldermen in an attempt to get the city to aid the county in improving the public roads. June 2, 1885, Mayor William Johnston recommended an issue of bonds, and this was the first notable move in the right direction. November 8, 1887, under the administration of Mayor F. B. McDowell, who had succeeded Col. Johnston in May, the city voted an issue of \$50,000 of bonds for street improvements.

The bonds were sold February 6, 1888, at their par value, and the improvement of the city streets was then begun in earnest. The first plan adopted was to have stone broken by hand, and laid on the streets to a depth of five or six inches, after having made an equivalent excavation. In this way, about five miles of streets were put in fair condition; but after the issue of bonds, machinery for crushing rock was

purchased, and the work was thus made both swifter and cheaper. The city now owns a well-equipped rock-crushing plant, and the macadamizing has been continued by successive administrations, with a constant improvement in methods.

As street building in Charlotte progressed, the authorities of Mecklenburg county undertook the task of improving the highways outside the city. In 1884, S. H. Hilton, of the board of county commissioners, was appointed to take charge of the county road building. The Legislature authorized the county commissioners to put to work on the roads the prisoners of the city or county many of whom were thereafter sentenced to a term "on the roads," and to levy a special road tax of from seven to twenty cents on each \$100 worth of property. Mr. Hilton, with three prisoners and a \$500 team, began work on the Providence road near the present site of the Thompson Orphanage. Mud was so deep in the road that one load of stones would be thrown in and then the laborers would get on the pile and scatter other stones around, and when the mud holes were filled, the stones on top were broken with hammers. Five hundred yards of this kind of work was done there, and then the force, which was being increased, transferred their attention to others of the worst roads in the county. Within that year, a crusher was purchased for \$900, and as more prisoners were sent out, and the supervisor—by investigations of similar work elsewhere—familiarized himself with the best methods, the work improved in efficiency and practicability. When Mr. Hilton left the office, in 1893, the county road force consisted of eighty-five convicts and equipment worth about five thousand dollars; and thirty miles of roads had been macadamized. There are now more than one hundred miles of macadam roads in Mecklenburg.

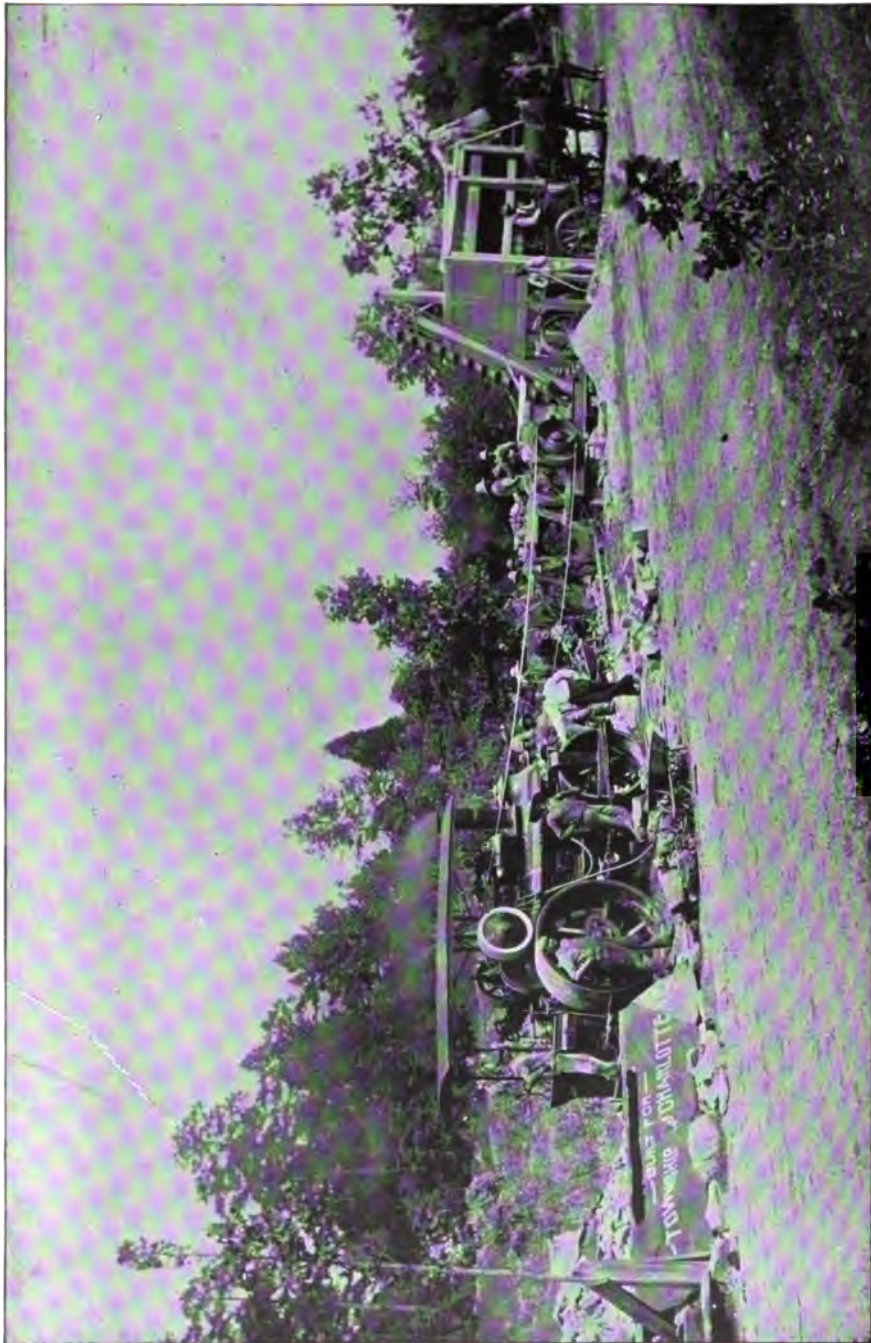
In 1897, the Legislature created the "Mecklenburg Road and Convict Commission," which consisted of three persons, and assumed the authority for road construction hitherto held by the county commissioners. Two years later, the old

system was restored, and all that the county is now doing in building, reconstructing and repairing streets and roads is divided into three departments: First, in the city of Charlotte, under direction of the mayor, city council, city engineer and supervisor of streets; second, in the county at large, under direction of the county commissioners, county engineer, and superintendent of convicts; third, in each township, through its board of trustees, are expended for local work in road repairing the proceeds of the road tax raised within the township.

A road outfit costs about \$5,000, and consists of a steam roller, crusher, bins, portable engine, road machine, and a screen made of boiler plate perforated to separate the crushed stones into three sizes. The city of Charlotte owns an outfit, Charlotte township owns one, and the county owns two. The first macadam roads built in Mecklenburg cost from \$2,700 to \$4,000 a mile, according to the amount and kind of grading required. The cost is now from \$1,600 to \$2,500 a mile. The present county road tax is eighteen cents on the \$100, and this raises twenty thousand dollars a year, which is expended in building roads by convict labor. In addition, each township levies a tax ranging from seven cents to fifteen cents on the \$100, and the proceeds are expended by the township trustees in improvements and repairs. The county fund is supplemented by special appropriations by the commissioners to the extent of ten or fifteen thousand dollars annually.

The question of good roads is not one of construction alone, but of development and maintenance as well. The trustees of Charlotte township find it necessary to expend \$330 a mile every five years for repairs. Three hundred and fifty cubic yards of stone, costing forty cents a yard, are required, \$140 being thus expended for stone alone. This stone is purchased of the farmers, who thus get paid for something which would otherwise be worse than useless. There is also the cost of spiking, distributing, rolling, crushing, harrowing and other labor. Careful observation teaches





ROAD MACHINERY.

that the use of broad tires in place of narrow ones would reduce this expense to one-third of what it now is.

Convict labor is regarded with great favor. The reports show that the cost of feeding, clothing and guarding the prisoners amounts to about twenty-five cents a day for each one, which is less than the county would pay for their board in the county jail. Formerly, the roads were constructed by rounding up the roadbed, cutting drain ditches on each side, excavating twelve feet in the middle to a depth of nine inches, and then filling in the excavated portion with stone broken by hand. The system has been developed until not only is the stone crushed by steam power and the processes otherwise improved, but the roads are often re-located and graded, becoming practically new roads.

Experience taught the authorities that when the roads are dry, the clay bed is preferable to macadam, because of the less wear and jolting of vehicles and of the better effect on the feet of the horses. The location of the macadam in the middle of the road left either side too narrow for vehicles, so the plan of having the macadam on one side was adopted. On these roads, the macadam is used in winter, and is saved from the wear of the summer traffic, because in summer the clay bed is preferred.

The result of the work here outlined is that Charlotte has been lifted out of the mud and made a city of clean streets and attractive appearance; the country has been benefited by the easier accessibility of markets, besides furnishing pleasant driveways for the people of city and county. All this has been accomplished within a few years, without imposing any burdens upon the people in a section where, from the earliest times, the roadbeds were comparable to the tempering pits of a brickyard.

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*Authority:*—County Records and Road Officials.

## CHAPTER XXXVII.

### DEVELOPMENT OF MANUFACTURES. (1865 to 1900.)

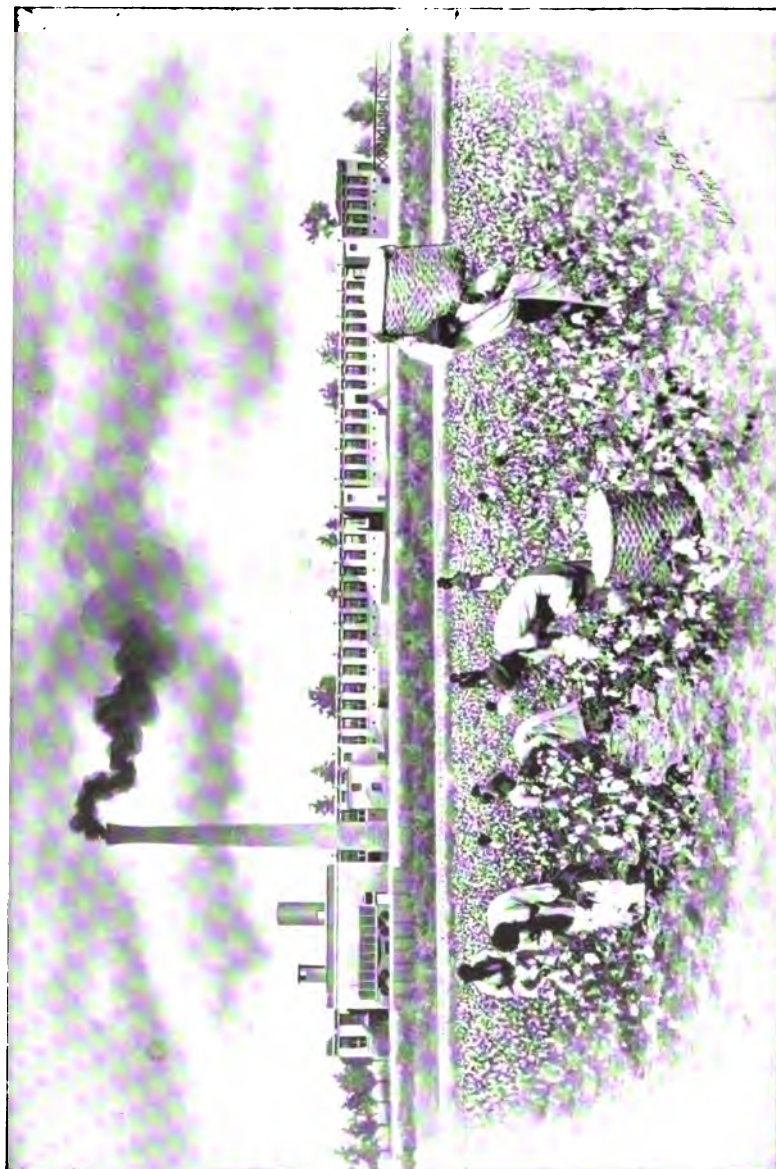
**Iron Substituted for Wood in Machinery as a Result of the Abolition of Cheap Labor—Necessity Forces Improvements—First Cotton Mill Built in 1881 and First Cotton Oil Mill in 1882—Cotton Compresses—Industrial Progress Attendant Upon Manufacturing—Situation in 1900.**

The end of the Civil War left the negroes free, but without any of the habits or feelings of free men, and the acquirement of them required the slow process of time. It soon became difficult for farmers to secure enough negro workmen to gin a crop of cotton, so demoralized had the freedmen become. To them the idea of freedom was absolution from work and restraint of all kinds. This difficulty of obtaining labor was augmented by the advent of the system of farming under which the negroes rented small quantities of land and began farming on their own account. Being unable to get as much labor as the old system demanded, the planters began to manifest a spirit of interest in the introduction of mechanical appliances tending to reduce the number of hands necessary for their work.

Wooden cogs and wallowers of gin running gear, used for transmission of power, and similar machinery, wore rapidly and required frequent renewal. When these renewals were made by labor which cost nothing, such machinery was satisfactory, but when the labor had to be paid for in money, a demand immediately arose for cast bevel wheels. This application of cast-iron gearing was probably the first move in the direction of labor-saving devices. Wrought band iron replaced ropes for binding the bales of cotton, both as a matter of economy and for safety from fire.

The "feeder" and the "condenser" were inventions of much importance; the first was a contrivance into which the





COTTON MILL AND COTTON.



seed cotton could be put, and which would, with proper adjustments, feed the gin; the other attachment caught the lint cotton between two skeleton wire-cloth bound rollers, and delivered it from the gin in a continuous "bat," instead of like feathers in a gale. Next came a compact press capable of pressing a bale by the power of two stout laborers. Then the steam power began to be used, and instead of every planter owning his own gin, the larger ones only owned one, and they ginned for the public. Following these adaptations were well-designed modern steam ginneries, equipped with labor-saving appliances. About 1885, exhaust suction fans came into use, and they made possible the unloading of cotton direct from the wagon through a pipe or flue into the gin feeder or into bins partitioned off in the gin house.

These changes may be said to have forced themselves upon the plantation. They were not the result of any exertions on the part of the planter or tenant to find better or cheaper methods, but each feature was introduced as a matter of necessity; not as a preferable way, but as the only way the crop could be prepared for market. Similar innovations and improvements were being made in all kinds of work. The plantation tools of 1870 were the wooden plow stock with a small variety of small iron plow-shares, a weeding hoe, a scythe and a wagon. On the same plantation, ten years later, could have been seen modern reapers, sulky plows, cotton planters, finely made harrows and like implements.

For a few years after the war, when the price of cotton was so high that anyone could live by a small amount of farming, the land was cultivated extensively; but when the cultivation reached its limit, and the price of cotton became lower, the farmers and home capitalists realized that the only way their condition could be bettered was by manufacturing the raw product at home. In 1873, there were thirty-three cotton factories in North Carolina, with a total capital of \$1,130,900, and earning a profit of twelve per cent. on the investment. September 15, of that year, a public meet-

ing was held in Charlotte to discuss plans for a mill here, and committees were appointed to investigate and report. March 6, 1874, another meeting was held, and yet another at Davidson College March 31. A company was then formed to build a factory at Spring's Shoals, on the Catawba. The Charlotte Cotton Factory Company met in Charlotte September 24, 1874, and organized with A. B. Davidson president, A. Macaulay vice president, and F. H. Dewey secretary and treasurer. About the same time, the owners of the Rock Island woolen mill organized to convert it into a cotton factory, with R. I. McDowell president, and A. S. Caldwell secretary and treasurer.

Though these movements did not materialize, the agitation consequent upon them did later result in the beginning of cotton manufacturing in the city. The Charlotte cotton mill was the first, and it began operations in the Spring of 1881. It was established by R. M., J. E., D. W. and J. M. Oates, with a capital of \$131,500. Only spinning was done in the mill for ten years, and then the weaving department was added. In 1896, there were five cotton mills in Charlotte, and the development since that time has been remarkable. There are now seventeen mills in Charlotte, with a combined capital of three million dollars, nearly three thousand looms, about 125,000 spindles, 6,000 operatives, and a weekly pay roll of \$30,000. There is also one cotton mill at Davidson, one at Pineville, one at Huntersville, and one at Cornelius.

Cotton seed, not needed for planting, were formerly scattered over the fields for fertilizer, but as their value for oil and other purposes became known, oil mills were built. The first one in Charlotte was established in 1882, and there are now two in the city and one at Davidson College. There are also two cotton compresses, which together handle about 150,000 bales annually. These compresses were originated because of the importance of having the bales as small as possible, especially for shipment across the sea. Two large warehouses supply good services to farmers who thus have





COTTON MILL OPERATIVES.



an opportunity to secure cash advances on their cotton while holding it for higher prices by paying a small rental fee. The average cotton trade in Charlotte amounts to about \$1,200,000 every year.

Within a radius of one hundred miles around Charlotte are nearly 300 cotton mills, operating more than 3,000,000 spindles and 85,000 looms, and having a capital of \$100,000,000, which not only shows that Charlotte is a manufacturing centre, but the remarkable fact that *one-half of the looms and spindles of the South are within one hundred miles of this city*. In Charlotte are companies which build and equip cotton factories and oil mills, and a number of other agencies for miscellaneous supplies and machinery.

While cotton manufacturing is the chief industry of Mecklenburg county, other manufactures have developed along with it, and represent forty per cent. of the total manufacturing capital. The Mecklenburg Iron Works and the Liddell Company are the oldest establishments in the county. There are three other machine shops and foundries, five clothing factories, and a fertilizer factory, and almost every other kind of manufacturing plant on a more or less extensive scale. More than half the manufacturing capital of the county is invested in cotton factories, but the remaining forty per cent. leaves a wide latitude for diversified industries.

Mecklenburg county has 181 factories, with a capital of \$5,108,591, and of these Charlotte has 112, with a capital of \$4,112,342. In the county, according to the census of 1900, were 3,988 wage earners, of whom 2,210 were men, 1,102 were women and 676 were children under sixteen years of age; and the average yearly earnings were \$219. Materials, mill supplies, freight, power and heat cost the factories annually \$3,500,000; wages, \$875,000; total cost, \$4,375,000; value of products, \$5,736,000. *From these figures it is found that the gross profit to the county (not to the manufacturer) from manufacturing raw material at home is thirty per cent., and the annual profit on the capital invested is*

*twenty-six per cent. Mecklenburg, in 1902, produced 28,407 bales of cotton, for which the farmers received about one million dollars. Manufactured into various products, it would be worth from fifteen to forty-five cents a pound, or a total of from two million to six million dollars. Mecklenburg's cotton factories increase the value of the annual cotton product of the county from one million to two million five hundred thousand dollars.*

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*Authority:—County Records, Newspapers and Officials.*





WHEAT.



CORN.





## CHAPTER XXXVIII.

### MECKLENBURG AND CHARLOTTE IN 1903.

**Population, Taxable Real Estate, Personal Property, Railroads and Banks—Expenses and Receipts of County and City—Social and Business Organizations—Incorporated Towns—Farm Products.—New Buildings.**

The total taxable value of real estate and personal property in Mecklenburg county in 1902 was \$11,717,404, and in the city of Charlotte the value was \$8,248,660. Considering the fact that Mecklenburg and Charlotte are one hundred and forty-three and one hundred and thirty-five years old, respectively, there is nothing phenomenal in this development. Other sections have grown more rapidly, some cities have sprung up within a year, but few have equaled the record for steady, reliable and lasting growth. The county and city have ever been free from everything akin to a "boom;" genuine work and merit do not depend upon excitement for recognition. An important rule of the business organizations has been the refusal to pay a "bonus" to get any enterprise to enter the city. New industries are welcomed, but not subsidized, and as a result, everything which comes into the county, comes to stay.

General county expenses in 1902 amounted to \$92,542, and city expenditures for general purposes amounted to \$141,227. The county indebtedness is \$300,000; city, \$515,000. The county buildings, court house, jail, road machinery, etc., are worth about one hundred thousand dollars. The city owns the city hall, water works, three school buildings, about thirty acres of land, three town lots, latest improved fire alarm system, and two fire departments. The streets are macadamized, and the city owns and keeps up a crematory for the disposal of refuse, and a sewerage system. There are one hundred miles of macadam roads in

the county, forty of which are in Charlotte township. These roads cost from \$1,500 to \$4,000 a mile, with an average cost of \$2,000 a mile.

Though vast improvements have been made in city and county, the general taxes have not increased to any considerable extent. County tax is \$1.16 2-3 on the \$100, and a \$3.50 poll tax; the city taxes are \$1 and \$3 respectively. Taxable real estate and personal property in the county increased in valuation \$917,929 between 1900 and 1902; 318,121 acres of land are valued at \$3,092,296, and 4,017 town lots at \$4,293,761. Six railroads enter the city, and twelve of the fifteen townships of the county have railroads, their total valuation in the county being \$1,369,917. The assessments are about sixty per cent. of the true value.

A municipal census, January 7, 1901, ascertained the population of the city to be 27,752. The last government census, taken in 1900, gives the population as 18,091. The latter is of the city inside the corporate limits, while the former census is of the suburbs also. By the 1901 census, the population of each ward was: First, 5,942; Second, 5,242; Third, 4,556; Fourth, 4,162; total in wards, 19,902; number outside of wards, 7,850; grand total, 27,752. Of these, 11,983 were colored people. The census of 1900 gave Mecklenburg a population of 55,261. In 1903, the population of the county is about seventy thousand, and of the city thirty thousand.

The administration of the city government is vested in a mayor, recorder and board of aldermen, and the city owns and conducts the water works and fire departments. There is a health department which takes every possible precaution against the spread of contagion and in the interest of the health of the people. There are in the city three daily newspapers, two semi-weekly papers, three weeklies, two medical monthlies, two religious papers, and two college annuals, and there are five job printing establishments.

Nearly all the well known fraternal and benevolent socie-





GRAPES.





CATTLE.





ties are represented in Charlotte. The Manufacturers' Club is the most noted, and there are also the North State Club, Chamber of Commerce, a literary and library association, a Scotch-Irish association, six musical organizations, a medical society, a law association, historical association, Carnegie Library Association, country club, five military organizations, composed of Hornets' Nest Riflemen, drum corps and artillery; post of the Grand Army of the Republic, camp of Confederate Veterans, and fifteen others.

There are four incorporated towns in the county: Matthews, with a population of 378; Davidson, 904; Huntersville, 533; Pineville, 585. Derita, Newells and Mint Hill are growing unincorporated towns. There are fifty-nine postoffices in the county. The general elevation of Mecklenburg is 700 feet above sea level, and the soil is well adapted to successful farming. Farmers average to the acre thirty to sixty bushels of corn, twenty to fifty of wheat, three hundred of potatoes, three to five tons of hay. Grapes thrive abundantly, and orchards and vineyards are carefully cultivated.

One thing which attests continued growth and promises a bright future, is the building of suburban towns. Charlotte is growing larger as it grows better and richer. There are several hotels in the city, and a number of attractive public buildings. Among them are the postoffice, assay office, court house, city hall, Carnegie Library, colleges and graded schools. The street car and lighting plants are as good as the best, and Latta Park, at the southern extremity of the car line, is a popular pleasure resort. A long distance and two local telephone companies and two telegraph companies afford excellent service. One of the established institutions of the county and city is the Mecklenburg Fair Association, the annual exhibits of which are events of interest.

The Carnegie Library was completed in the latter part of May, 1903, at a cost of \$40,000, and will be maintained by the city by an annual appropriation of \$2,500. The Vance

Memorial Association of Charlotte was organized in 1902, for the purpose of raising the funds necessary to place a monument of Vance in the library.

During the past four years, the outlay for new buildings has averaged \$500,000 a year, and the average for new dwelling houses has been more than 600 annually. The nine financial institutions represent a combined capital of \$1,101,703; total assets, \$5,582,519, and have deposits amounting to about three million dollars. Charlotte wholesale merchandise establishments keep on the road two hundred traveling salesmen. The construction of macadam roads, and the system of free rural mail delivery and county telephone lines, connect the whole county directly with the city, and serve to increase the value and attractiveness of the country districts.

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*Authority:*—County and City Records and Personal Investigations.





ANDREW JACKSON.



**Cabin Near Waxhaw, (Site now in Union, but Then in Mecklenburg), in Which Andrew Jackson, Seventh President of the United States, Was Born March 15, 1767.**





## CHAPTER XXXIX.

### MECKLENBURG'S GREAT CITIZENS.

**Sketches of the Lives of President Andrew Jackson, President James Knox Polk and Senator Zebulon Baird Vance.**

Andrew Jackson, seventh President of the United States, was born in the southeastern part of Mecklenburg county, March 15, 1767. The ruins of the cabin are yet to be seen and are about six miles south of Waxhaw and five hundred yards from the South Carolina line, in what is now Union county. There, in the home of George McKenney, whose wife was a sister of Jackson's mother, the child was born. His father, Andrew Jackson, Sr., had died about a month before, and when the boy was three weeks old, his mother moved with her three children to the home of James Crawford, just over the line in South Carolina. There he lived until the invasion by Cornwallis, in 1780, when his brother, Hugh, was killed at the battle of Stono. Andrew and his brother Robert, were one day ordered by some British soldiers to black their boots. Refusing to do so, they were severely injured by the soldiers, and were sent to prison in Camden. They were soon released, but Robert died from the effect of his wounds, and Mrs. Jackson died a few days later. Andrew, left alone in the world, spent the next few years in the old Waxhaw settlement, and part of his time in Charlotte and Charleston. During this period, he attended school for a short time and acquired a rudimentary education. He was strong, healthy, self-reliant and independent. Resolving to be a lawyer, he entered the office of Spruce McKay, in Salisbury, and under the instruction of McKay, who was afterwards a judge, and Colonel John Stokes, he was prepared for the bar. His first practice was in Randolph county, in the old court house at Brown's Cross Roads, which is still standing. He left there after a year,

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and in 1789, was appointed solicitor of the Western district of North Carolina, and he located in that section which seven years later was made the State of Tennessee. In Nashville, he married Mrs. Robards, with whom he lived happily until her death in 1828. In 1796, Jackson was elected to Congress, and the next year he was appointed to the Senate, but resigned a year later. He was then elected a judge of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, which position he resigned in 1804, and retired to private life until the beginning of the War of 1812. In that war he made a national reputation by winning the battle of New Orleans, January 8, 1815. He was appointed commander-in-chief of the southern division of the army in 1817, he conducted to a successful conclusion the Seminole War in Florida, and became Governor of the new province. In 1824, he was a candidate for President and led all the other candidates, but he was thrown into the House of Representatives, and John Adams was elected. Jackson defeated Adams in the second term, defeating him in 1832. The most important events in his administration were his opposition to the idea of a centralized national government controlling all government deposits and having the right of issuing national bank notes, and to nullification of all things and at all times, he was firm almost to the point of persevering and persistent. He retired to "The Hermitage" in the Spring of 1837, and died there June 8, 1845.

#### POLK.

James Knox Polk, eleventh President of the United States, was born eleven miles south of Charlotte, near Sugar creek church, November 2, 1795. His father, S. Polk, who married Jane Knox, was a son of Ezekiel Polk, nephew of Thomas Polk of revolutionary fame, grandson of William Polk, and great-grandson of John Polk, great-great-grandson of Robert Polk, who came to this country from Ireland in 1735. In 1806, the father of the President-to-be moved with his family to the southeastern part of





**JAMES KNOX POLK.**



**Cabin Near Pineville, Mecklenburg County, in Which James Knox Polk, Eleventh President of the United States, Was Born November 2, 1795.**









ZEBULON BAIRD VANCE.



Tennessee. After attending a grammar school, James Knox Polk was sent to the University of North Carolina, from which he was graduated in 1818, in the same class with Rev. R. H. Morrison, Bishop W. M. Green, H. C. Jones, Hugh Waddell, and William D. Mosely who was afterwards Governor of Florida. He did not miss a recitation during his entire college course, and received the highest honors of his class. He read law with Felix Grundy, and was licensed to practice in 1820, and was elected to Congress in 1825, remaining there for fourteen years and being Speaker from 1835 to 1838. In 1839, he was elected Governor of Tennessee, and in 1844 was elected President. In his acceptance of the nomination for President, he declared he would serve only one term, and his administration was one of glory and prosperity, being marked by the war with Mexico, which resulted in the annexation of Texas. He died in Nashville, June 15, 1849, and on his tomb are inscribed these words:

“By his public policy he defended, established, and extended the boundaries of his country. He planted the laws of the American Union on the shores of the Pacific. His influence and his councils tended to organize the National Treasury on the principles of the constitution, and to apply the rule of Freedom to navigation, trade and industry.”

#### VANCE.

Zebulon Baird Vance, grandson of Col. David Vance who was wounded at the battle of King's Mountain, was born in Buncombe county, May 13, 1830. He was educated at Washington College, Tenn., studied law at the University of North Carolina, was admitted to the bar in 1852, and was elected county attorney the same year. Possessing a mind of comprehensive ability and a wonderfully retentive memory, he met with success in the practice of law, but his inclinations early turned his attention to politics. In all his career he was distinguished for sterling honesty, clean methods, fair and open dealing, and a manly, generous and

humorous disposition. He was elected to the State Legislature as a Whig in 1854, to Congress in 1857 and in 1859, and at the end of his service in Congress, he entered the Confederate army as a captain in the Fourteenth regiment. His gallantry won the admiration of the soldiers, and in August of 1861, he was elected colonel of the Twenty-sixth regiment. In the trying days in 1860 and 1861, he was conservative and opposed secession, but when his State seceded, he was among the first to volunteer his services. In August, 1862, he was elected Governor, was re-elected in 1864, and continued in the office until the Federal forces seized the government in April, 1865. In August, 1863, he was married to Miss Harriet Epsey, by whom he had four sons. He was in Charlotte with President Davis, April 16, 1865, and then went to join his family in Statesville. He was arrested by Federal authority in May, and spent several months in the Old Capitol Prison, in Washington. He was released near the end of the year, and returned to make his home in Charlotte, and was active in patriotic work in this county for ten years. In 1876, he was nominated by the Democrats for Governor and was elected, and January 1, 1877, he took the oath of office as Governor for the third time. In 1878, he was elected and assumed the duties of United States Senator, which position he held until his death, April 14, 1894.

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*Notes:*—This chapter is founded upon information contained in the popular biographies of the three men, from Wheeler's Reminiscences, Senator Ransom's Eulogy on Vance, Walkup's Pamphlet on the Birthplace of Jackson, and from Personal Investigations of the Birthplace of Jackson and of Polk.



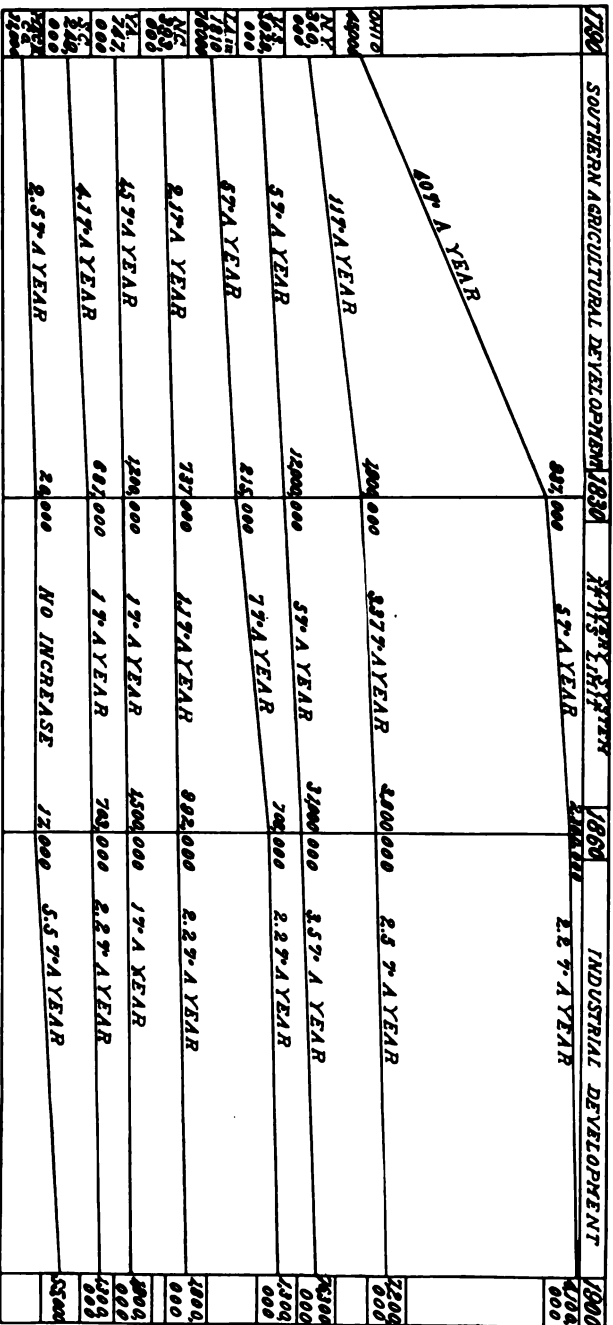


Diagram Representing the Increase of Population in Mecklenburg and North Carolina in Four Distinct Periods in Comparison with Typical States.



## CHAPTER XL.

### SUMMARY.

**Explanation of the Growth and Development of Mecklenburg and Charlotte Under Diverse Conditions in Different Periods, in Comparison With the United States and North Carolina.**

From the time of the first Federal census, in 1790, until the twelfth, in 1900, the population of Mecklenburg county increased from 11,395 to 55,268, being a total of 385 per cent., and an annual average of 3.5 per cent. During the same period, the yearly average for the United States was 16.8 per cent., and for North Carolina, 3.4 per cent. So that though the county has not grown nearly so rapidly as the nation, its average is almost identical with that of the State, and hence its record fairly represents the result of the conditions which have existed in North Carolina. The population of the State and nation has steadily increased every year, though at times not so fast as at other times, while the population of Mecklenburg has fluctuated from 3.2 per cent. decrease to 3.9 per cent. increase. The earliest census report of the city of Charlotte was in 1860, when the population was given as 1,366. The total increase from then until 1900 was 1,225 per cent., with an annual average of 30.6 per cent. From 1870 to 1900, the increase in Charlotte averaged 24 per cent. a year; in Mecklenburg, 7 per cent.; in North Carolina, 2.5 per cent., and in the United States, 3 per cent.

Previous to the census of 1790, all sections of the country were being continuously developed. By that year, the country was well settled, and had an organized and efficient government. In the last decade of the eighteenth century, Mecklenburg's population decreased from 11,395 to 10,439. This was caused by the creation of Cabarrus, in 1792, which took about 4,000 people from Mecklenburg, but this number

was almost regained within the following eight years, so that in 1800 there were only 956 less than in 1790.

By 1800, the simultaneous introduction of slavery and cotton planting had been accomplished. The invention of the cotton gin, in 1796, has been recorded as the greatest of all blessings to the South, and ultimately it may be so, but before 1860 it was nearer anything else than a blessing. It was primarily responsible for the system of slavery, which reached its limit in the South Atlantic States by 1830, and then retarded all growth until it was abolished. Cotton is now deemed a necessity, and in its manufacture it is the life of the South, but we could probably have done as well without it until we began to manufacture it.

The decade between 1800 and 1810 was the most prosperous in the county before the Civil War, the rate of increase in population being 2.5 per cent. a year. This was the result of the beginning of the cotton industry, and within that short space of time nearly all the land in the county was divided into large plantations, and there was no more room for growth. During the next twenty years, the rate of increase was 1.9 per cent. a year, and in 1830, population began to decrease, and continued to decrease one per cent. a year until 1840, and between 1840 and 1850 the annual decrease was 3.2 per cent. When the downward movement began, it was precipitated by a great emigration to the northwest and southwest, which was attributable to the desire of the people either to go where they could have more land for the operation of slavery or to escape the evils dependent upon it, which were even then being realized.

The rapid fall between 1840 and 1850 was caused by the creation of Union county in 1842, which took about 5,000 of Mecklenburg's population. The extent of emigration is shown by the facts that between 1830 and 1840, the State of Alabama increased 90 per cent. in population; Arkansas increased 221 per cent.; Illinois increased 202 per cent.; Indiana, 99 per cent.; Louisiana, 63 per cent.; Michigan, 570 per cent., and Mississippi and Missouri, 175 per cent.

each. During the same ten years, Virginia and South Carolina increased 2.3 per cent. each, and North Carolina only 2.1 per cent., thus showing quite plainly from what sections came the settlers of the northwest and southwest.

The emigration movement ended about 1850, and the thoughtful men at home, who had fully realized the futility of cotton planting as a source of wealth and prosperity, began to turn their attention to other things. Public highways and waterways were improved, canals were worked on, factories were being planned, and the revival of the long dormant interest in important phases of industry served to turn the tide of emigration. In the ten years before the war, the population increased from 13,914 to 17,374, being an annual increase of 2.5 per cent. Then came the war, which paralyzed all progress for five years, and left the county poorer in wealth and population in 1865 than it was in 1860. The increase in the State from 1840 to 1860 was at the rate of 15 per cent. every ten years.

Immediately after the war there was a revival of industrial life. Mecklenburg was favored by home seekers, because of the settled and peaceable state of affairs prevailing here, while all around was turmoil and strife. Investors and speculators and capitalists considered it an inviting field for commercial development at first, and later for industrial development. The natural resources, mines and rich soil, and the healthfulness of the climate, were attractive features. Between 1860 and 1870, the population of the county increased from 17,374 to 24,299, or 39 per cent., while the city population increased from 1,366 to 2,212, or 62 per cent., and all this increase was between 1865 and 1870, as there was no growth during the war. In the same decade, the population of the United States increased 22.6 per cent., and of North Carolina, 7.9 per cent. The growth was greater from 1870 to 1880, being 44 per cent. in the county, 32 in the city, 30.7 in the state, and 30.1 in the United States. This decade between 1870 and 1880, was the most prosperous in the history of the county, as calcu-

lated from the average annual increase of population. This growth was caused by the complete change in all phases of life, as the result of emancipation, by the stirring up of new ideas and the beginning of new things, by Charlotte's becoming a market for the exchange and distribution of all kinds of produce for wide territory which was taking on new life, and by the interest manifested in gold mining in the county which put money into circulation and built a large machinery trade in the city.

Cotton manufacturing was begun in Charlotte in 1881, and the first cotton oil mill was established in 1882. From 1880 to 1890, the increase in population was 24.9 per cent. in the United States, 15.6 in North Carolina, 24 in Mecklenburg and 62 in Charlotte. During this period, manufacturing became the chief object of interest in the development of the county and city. In the following decade, from 1890 to 1900, the manufacture of cotton assumed such proportions as to be considered the life of the community, but other manufacturing plants were being built and the manufactories were being diversified. The manufacture of clothing was developed to a degree of considerable importance, as were also the manufactures of cotton oil and machinery. The population increased in this time 20.7 per cent. in the nation, 17.1 in the State, 29 in the county and 56 in the city.

It is not difficult to comprehend the causes actuating the variability in the rate of increase in the nation, State, county and city. In order that they should be similar, it would be necessary that at all times there should be perfect uniformity in the birth rate, death rate and immigration, which condition is obviously inconceivable. The increase in the nation is the balancing of the sundry conditions prevailing in the separate states, and it has never varied from the average more than one per cent. a year. North Carolina has varied as much as one and one-half per cent. a year, Mecklenburg county as much as two per cent., and Charlotte as much as thirty per cent. This is plainly accounted for by the fact that the conditions causing the abnormal fluc-

tuations affect only a small section, and the smaller the section the greater is the fluctuation.

Since the first Federal census in 1790, there have been three general influences exerted. From 1790 to 1830 was the period of development in the South under the system of slavery, and the increase during the forty years averaged yearly 7.5 per cent. in the United States, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in North Carolina and in Mecklenburg county. From 1830 to 1860 was the period of retarded growth attendant upon the slavery system having reached the limit of usefulness, and the average annual increase was 8 per cent. in the nation, 1.1 in the State and less than one per cent. in the county, after having allowed for the decrease caused by the creation of Union county. It is noticeable that during this period, under the domination of slavery, the nation prospered more than during the preceding period, while the growth of the South was barely perceptible. When slavery attained to the greatest possible production of agricultural products, the North was prospering and the South was almost at a standstill. The third movement was the industrial expansion which grew from the business revival in the years following the war. Between 1880 and 1900, the increase was at the rate of 1.6 per cent. a year in the State, 2.3 in the nation, 2.9 in the county and 5.6 in the city. The fact that during this later period, the city grew faster than did the nation or State or county, is evidence of the superb natural advantages of Charlotte as a center of manufacturing industries, and is an encouraging forecast of greater things yet to come.

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*Note:*—The statistics included in this Chapter were obtained from the Census Reports.



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